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Letter from the editor

For better birding, learn your trees

As my sister, Laurel Ann Kaiser, and I studied the differences between pines, firs, and spruces at Lyons Woods in Lake County last fall, I heard the lovely melody of the bird I had come to find. I looked up and a *Myadestes townsendi* was perched like a star on a Christmas tree atop an *Abies concolor*. In layman's terms, that's a Townsend's Solitaire sitting on a white fir.

Knowing the identity of the tree upon which my lifer sat greatly enhanced the experience, and further explained why this western bird who lives in coniferous forests and mountainous regions was there. Lyons Woods, a former nursery replete with conifers, is now a Lake County Forest Preserve. And that means if a Townsend's Solitaire found the area a safe haven, birders might also discover other interesting birds there such as Pine Grosbeaks and White-winged Crossbills in winter.

The reason I knew the tree and its Latin name was because I took a tree identification course last fall (and also got some help from my sister, who's getting a horticulture degree, and David Johnson, who knows his trees almost as well as he knows his birds and alerted me to the solitaire's presence).

I learned 122 trees in my class and I'm excited about how my birding skills can improve because of that knowledge. For instance, late last summer, I walked through Wright Woods in Lake County and stumbled upon a tree swarming with birds - robins, Swainson's Thrushes, Cedar Waxwings, a Brown Thrasher. The birds were eating the fruit from a *Prunus serotina*, a black cherry tree. This Illinois native species produces fruit in late summer - perfect timing for the migrants. I knew it was a black cherry by the potato-chip like bark; shiny green, oblong serrated leaves; and reddish buds. I remember exactly where the black cherry is and know where the birds will be next fall. Also, learning to identify trees by examining them up close for bud color and shape and whether the leaves and buds are tomentose or glabrous, can translate to better birding observation skills.

Another advantage to knowing your trees is that when bird life is scarce, you can enjoy the plant life as I did when I compared *Carpinus caroliniana* (hornbeam) with *Ostrya virginiana* (American hophornbeam) at Ryerson Woods last fall. As I enjoyed the contrasting smooth, gray flute-like ridges of the hornbeam's bark with the thin, long strips of the hophornbeam's bark, lo and behold, a Black-throated Blue Warbler appeared.

Learning your trees, as well as other plants, will make your birding trip more meaningful and hopefully remind you that birds are one part of the bigger picture, a natural world that must be preserved.

Sheryl De Vore

MEADOWLARK

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President's Message

Many active birders began pursuing their avian interests when they were young and introduced to the natural world by an older friend, family member, or teacher. They were often led in spring beyond the local neighborhood into an area teeming with migrating birds hooking them into a lifelong passion.

For the long-term viability of IOS, we need to encourage the younger generation to begin exploring the world of birds. Taking your child, a nephew, a niece, a neighbor's child out into your backyard and pointing out some common birds is one way to start. I'm planning an IOS field trip in spring geared to the youth. Those of you interested in leading similar field trips, let me know. Perhaps we can find more ways to get the younger set interested in the joys of birding.

Eric Walters

About our cover:

Karen A. Becker drew the cover illustration of the Whimbrel, a rare Illinois migrant. Becker works in her Wheaton, IL and Baileys Harbor, WI homes doing botanical and ornithological artwork.

She accepts commissions and can be reached at: 1582 Burr Oak Court, Wheaton, IL 60187 or by calling 708.668.3838, x. 4531.

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A Gathering of Strangers:

The Biology and Ecology of Colonial Heronries

by William Moskoff

A heronry is a complicated biological organization where birds in the order *Ciconiiformes* (herons, egrets, ibis, spoonbills) gather to mate, breed, and then raise their young. These birds are largely colonial breeders, that is, they breed in physical proximity to other birds rather than nesting alone.¹ They are also socially gregarious and therefore breed not only in the company of their own species, but also alongside and even in the same tree with other species. It is this feature which makes a heronry a gathering of strangers. Consider, for example, the heronry of Cypress Island Preserve in Lafayette, Louisiana, which in the

spring of 1994 had breeding White Ibis, Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Roseate Spoonbill, Black-crowned Night-Heron, and Yellow-crowned Night-Heron.²

Why Heronries Exist

If avian behavior serves the function of helping the species survive, what roles do heronries play? Colonies likely exist as a response to the pressures of breeding. For instance, colonies protect birds and their young from predators simply because there is strength in numbers.

The larger the number of birds in a colony, the more likely a predator will be observed by a member of the colony who can then rouse other residents. A large colony can serve as a defensive strategy because the successful predation of a single bird signals a warning to the rest of the colony.

Colonies may also function to provide easy foraging. Young, inexperienced birds may find it worthwhile to roost near older birds who know where nourishment exists. But what do the older birds obtain from this increased competition for food? Research suggests that the younger birds offer increased protection from predators (Ehrlich et al 1988).



Heronry drawing by David Athans.

Colonality also helps attract mates. Draulans (1988) found a high relationship between colonality and conspicuous coloring, diurnal activity, and breeding above ground. These three factors make birds more noticeable and therefore potentially attractive to other birds.

Colony Size and Nest-Site Characteristics

The question of how many individuals should be in a colony is closely connected to the matter of nest-site selection. One determinant of where birds reside will be the number of potential nesting locations, although competition for sites will place some upper limit on the number of breeding birds in the colony. In addition, the amount of local food resources constrains colony size. This is more

difficult to measure because the food resources available to colonial birds are usually not conveniently concentrated in a single spot, but rather are widely scattered (Gibbs et al. 1987).

A recent review article that synthesizes a great deal of literature on this subject gives several reasons why colony sizes vary (Brown, Stutchbury and Walsh 1990). One idea is that birds disperse themselves in an "ideal free distribution." In other words, left to their own devices, birds of equal capabilities examine alternative nesting sites and select a colony size such that the payoff for all birds is the same. For example, the size of a colony may reflect the amount of food available within the maximum foraging range of colony residents. In a study of Great Blue Herons, there was a "significant positive correlation between colony size and the area of tidal and inland wetlands within 20 km of

the colonies" (Gibbs et al. 1987). That is, the more food that was available nearby, the larger the colony.

Other data suggest that optimum colony size varies for different individuals within the same species. Among herons, evidence exists that in large colonies, individuals have a higher average reproductive success, likely resulting from the social effect of being able to avoid predators within a large group. This raises the question of why herons would ever choose a small colony where they are less likely to produce successfully. It is speculated that individual birds do not have "sufficient or reliable enough information to make optimal choices of colony size." (Brown, Stutchbury, and Walsh 1990).

Regardless, in a real sense, every year birds must decide where to nest. In some years this decision is easier

than others, and for first time breeders it is, by definition, always a new decision. It is important to understand that there is no single perfect solution for the colonizers. Some nest sites solve certain problems but leave others unsolved; there is an ongoing trade-off for the birds. For example, studies of nest-site characteristics of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons in coastal areas suggest that the birds choose nests that minimize their vulnerability to predation and high temperatures such as positions low in the tree canopy (Burger 1978). But Yellow-crowned Night-herons in Missouri placed their nests away from the center of the tree and in the upper reaches of the canopy (Laubhan and Reid 1991). While this activity might expose the herons to avian predation, it reduces the likelihood of non-avian predation, such as rats and raccoons. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons also use different kinds of trees to accomplish different purposes. Some nest in pines, which reduces the loss of their young to crows, while others use hardwoods, which reduce heat (Laubhan and Reid 1991).

A study of Great Blue Herons asked whether the birds saved energy by choosing colonial nesting sites located near foraging areas as opposed to nesting solitarily and therefore scattered more uniformly around foraging areas. Data showed that nesting colonies were located close to high-quality local foraging habitats so that travel time to regional feeding areas was minimized (Gibbs 1991). Thus there was a positive correlation between the number of nests per colony and the amount of nearby foraging area and a negative correlation between the number of nests in a colony and the distance a bird had to fly to get to a wetland to forage (Gibbs 1991).

Burger (1978) has suggested that the competition for space is most noticed in mixed species colonies. In a study conducted between 1972 and

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The Status of Heron Colonies in Illinois

by William Moskoff

Today, a number of the *Ciconiiformes* (herons and their allies) which nest in Illinois are endangered. These include the Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Least Bittern, and American Bittern.

Systematic knowledge of heron colonies in Illinois did not exist before a study done by Richard and Jean Graber, covering the five year period of 1973-1977, was published in *Illinois Birds* in 1978. Concerned about the substantial decrease in the numbers of certain species, the Natural Heritage Division of the Illinois Department of Conservation, now the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, began an annual monitoring of the state's nesting heron population. Since then, and annually since 1983, observations of heronries in Illinois have been carried on by the same department, largely under the supervision of Vernon Kleen. This brief overview of the status of heronries in the state is gleaned from the work of these three people.

The earliest work by the Grabers revealed disturbing declines in numbers for several species. Their estimates of Great Blue Heron nests for the four years of 1973-1976 showed a drop of 12-18 percent each year, from 1,435 nests in 1973 to only 865 in 1976. There were 26 or 27 Great Blue Heron colonies they surveyed in the state during that four year period, virtually all of them along the state's major rivers. These birds had been victimized in part by natural calami-



ties such as floods, but mostly they were threatened by man-made influences such as deforestation, the draining of foraging areas, and boating.

Much the same is true of the Great Egret. The species' numbers seemed to fluctuate in Illinois in ways that mirrored its numerical status in the U.S. Some evidence suggested that Great Egrets were negatively affected by hydrocarbon pollution, accounting in part for the decline in Illinois nests from 423 in 1973 to only 101 in 1976 (Graber 1978).

The number of Great Blue Herons and colonies has increased since the Grabers' study of the 1970s. In part this is due to the fact that inland colonies have been censused and in part because the birds are doing much better in the state, for reasons that are not obvious. They seem to have adapted to the conditions they confront in the state. The same is true of the Great Egret.

In the 1993 Heron Colony Survey Report, there were 52 Great Blue Heron colonies and 26 Great Egret

Great Egret in breeding plumage. Photos taken at Crabtree Nature Center, Cook Co. by Ken Oberlander.



colonies. In 1993, there were about 9,400 active Great Blue Heron nests and about 1,625 active Great Egret nests. There were also two substantial colonies each of Little Blue Herons and Cattle Egrets each with about 500 nests. There were some 900 counted Black-crowned Night-heron nests with two substantial groups not counted.

The censuses are done both from the air and from the ground in an

effort to maximize the quality of the count. Whatever the method, there are inherent difficulties in censusing these birds. Only Great Egrets and Great Blue Herons nest in the open so that it is relatively easy to survey the birds from the air. It is difficult to count other species such as Little Blue Heron and Black-crowned Night-Herons because they nest below the tree canopy. And for similar reasons it is difficult to count Cattle Egrets, although their striking white at least allows for a better estimate than their darker brethren. The problems with aerial counts can be serious. Indeed, some aerial counts have produced 50 percent less birds than what was counted from the ground at the same site.

It should be noted that it is difficult to get accurate counts for any given year and it is even more difficult to be certain about the comparability of counts between years. Herons abandon areas they have used and move to other places. Their new colony may not be discovered. Other areas may be transitional due to less than ideal nesting conditions.

Recent data suggest an increase in the numbers of some of the herons and egrets that are on the state-endangered species list. One must be cautious, however, because multiple potential assaults on their numbers continue to exist. With so much of Illinois' wetlands gone, the status of these birds may always be tenuous.

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Gathering of Strangers

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1976, she asked how and why species partition the nesting territory. She found that the aggressive behavior of birds was the most critical determinant of nest-site selection. She divided heronries into areas of homogeneous versus heterogeneous vegetation. In both cases, nest-site selection was not random. In all the vegetatively heterogeneous colonies, birds nested on specific plants or on branches that were a certain distance from open areas or had a definite degree of visibility. The most intriguing finding of the study was how birds distributed themselves in the vegetatively homogeneous colonies. Species "aligned themselves vertically in a particular order which correlated with body length" (Burger 1978). In other words, the larger the bird, the higher up it was in the vegetation. The place chosen in the vegetation seemed to reflect the ease with which a bird could escape should a predator approach the nest site. If present in the colony, Great Blue Heron, as the largest of the species in the heronries, chose the highest place in a given nesting area. If Great Blue Herons were not nesting, then Great Egret had the highest place in a tree.

Why did this pattern emerge? It could be because early arrivals at the nesting territory take the choicest spots, aggressive confrontations between birds ends with the largest bird victorious, or some combination of the two.

Burger's studies showed that the arrival times bore no relation to nest height or the body size of a species. Rather, aggressive behavior played the decisive role in the ultimate nest site of a bird. Two types of evidence were offered. First, larger species won their battles with smaller species and then defended the space around them. Second, late arriving larger species fought with smaller and ear-

lier arriving species and displaced them from the most desirable nest sites.

McCrimmon (1978) found four variables important in nest-site selection: vegetation structure, nest accessibility, protection, and distance from the center of the shrub or tree. These explanations accounted for 69 percent of the variation in nest-site characteristics of five waders in North Carolina, including Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Cattle Egret, Tricolored Heron, and Little Blue Heron.

Many studies have argued that social interactions (how close one nesting bird is to another bird) and vegetation are critical in determining nest-site selection. One study focused on the particular properties of nest placement and distribution in relation to vegetation and then discussed the role social interactions might play in choosing nest sites (Beaver, Osborn, and Custer 1980). The evidence is that there is a strong preference for a physically sturdy nest site. For one thing, males of all the studied heron and egret species perform their courtship display at this site. Secondly, most mating takes place at the same site. Researchers posit that social interactions modify the decisive role of nest stability only when a colony is extremely crowded or when the vegetation allows nests to be placed at many levels.

It is well known that Black-crowned Night-herons, Little Blue Herons, Green Herons, Cattle Egret, and Tricolored Herons use old nests. One study went a step further to examine the effect of old nests on the selection of nests during the next breeding season. It was carried out at the Clark's Island heronry, the largest mixed-species heronry in Massachusetts. There were two sets of trees: one a group of 21 experimental trees from which 52 old nests were removed and marked, and a second control group of 22 trees in which

53 nests were marked but left untouched.

In the control group, Black-crowned Night-herons used old nests in 86 percent of the cases and Snowy Egrets used them 60 percent of the time. In the first nesting in each tree, Black-crowned Night-herons used old nests in 85 percent of the cases and Snowy Egrets used them 76 percent of the time. The data on first nestings in trees therefore support the hypothesis that herons and egrets are interested in old nests (Davis 1986).

But the appeal of once-used nests does not mean that these birds are restricted in choosing an acceptable nest. One of the remarkable features of herons, egrets, and ibis is their great flexibility about where and with whom they will live. They do not seem to require any single type of tree or shrub in which to build a nest. For example, in the study done on Clark's Island, there were startling shifts in nesting habitat. While Glossy Ibis nested solely in deciduous bushes in 1975, three years later all but one of the ibis nests were found in eastern red cedars. In a similar way, Great Egrets moved their nests from blueberry bushes to pitch and white pine trees (David and Parsons 1982). This flexibility confirms Rand's earlier work (1956). He described Great Blue Herons as preferring to build their nests in a "grove of tall trees," but where such habitat is absent they build nests in low mangroves or on the ground among rocks as they do on the islands of Salt Lake City. Rand described Snowy Egrets as building their nests "in cypress or mangrove trees or in bushes in a marsh or pond as in Florida..." but in the west they make their nests "on bent-over reeds in sloughs and marshes."

Obviously, nest-site selection is a complicated matter for colonial breeders.

Courtship and Mating

Once a nest site is chosen, the courtship display and mating can occur. Space limitations prevent me from delineating these behaviors for all the herons and egrets, but it seems worthwhile to describe them for one species, the Little Blue Heron (Meanley 1955). The bird courts by shifting from an upright stance to crouching twice, as if pumping its body. Then it stands erect again, rocking from side to side twice. The prospective mate responds by stretching its neck toward the displaying bird, looking at the ground, and then rattling its mandibles. The displaying bird responds in kind. The future mates approach one another and cross necks, continuing the bill rattling for several minutes as well as biting each other's posterior feathers. Courtship often continues from sunrise to sunset. Copulation occurs at the nest. The female crouches as the male grabs her with his feet underneath her shoulders, opening his wings for balance.

The male gathers most of the nesting material and presents sticks to the female. Males remain near the nest while the female lays an average of four eggs in five to eight days. Both parents share incubation, brooding, and feeding duties. For a few days parents regurgitate food to the newly born chicks, but after about a week, the young take food from the bill. After about a month the young birds take their first flight.

The Violence of Heronries

The business of raising young is not without its jagged edges for there is violence at the nest. A mounting body of evidence indicates that siblicide occurs among *ardeids*, espe-

cially Great Egrets (*Casmerodius albus*). Ardeids lay more eggs than they can support. Moreover, they lay their eggs at intervals of one to three days, meaning that the first born have a developmental advantage over siblings who are hatched later. The competition for food decides who survives. If the food supply is great, all the chicks may survive; if it is poor, the younger, smaller chicks are at a distinct disadvantage and their larger, older siblings will overpower them. In this struggle to survive, Great Egret nestlings have been known to kill their siblings (Mock 1985). There is nothing very attractive about egret chick behavior. They stab their weaker brethren with their sharp bills, sometimes until a younger sibling dies (Irion 1994).

Why don't adult egrets stop the killing? Likely, there is a survival pressure to favor the strongest chicks; that is, adult egrets wager on the strong nestlings and allow the weaker ones to be killed or simply driven out of the nests where they are ignored by their parents (Wilder 1984).

Great Blue Herons exhibit much less aggressive behavior, perhaps because they feed their chicks large chunks of fish, five times longer and 100 times heavier than the small prey that egrets bring back to their nests (Mock 1985).

The Ecological Impact of Heronries

Heronries can have a significant detrimental influence on the flora and fauna of the areas in which birds nest. One study looked at the impact on a gum-cypress swamp of a colony in Clay County, Georgia (McDonald 1971). A similar nearby swamp without a heronry was used for comparison. The heronry created several ecological consequences. In the summer, a thick algal mat replaced

the duckweed throughout the colony area.

The swamp that supported the herons also had higher levels of nitrogen and phosphorous caused by the bird excrement in the water. The larger the colony, the greater was the concentration of these chemicals. Nitrogen and phosphorous compounds cause eutrophication of bodies of water, the unnatural increases in the nutrient content of water. One of the primary implications of having large amounts of decaying organic material is that its great demand for oxygen decreases the oxygen content of the water.

In addition, dead tree limbs and defoliated shrubbery marked the flora occupied by nesting birds. It is likely that once toxic levels were reached because of the accumulating excrement, trees and shrubs died, as did the water lilies and other floral life. The algal mat also sustained pollution-tolerant animals such as the microscopic rotifers, ciliated protozoans, and nematodes.

The impact upon water quality is partially determined by the species composition of the heronry. Those species that feed in the swamps are generally recycling local organic material. But Cattle Egrets, which are terrestrial feeders, excrete materials into the water that come from an entirely different ecosystem and therefore introduce other alien elements into the water. In both cases, the result is a changed water quality.

Data suggest that the defoliation wrought by guano alters the nesting patterns of birds (Wiese, 1978). In a large heronry in Delaware, it was found that the shrubs that had been occupied at the center of the heronry were dead and that the ground was denuded. As a result, in 1976, about half the bird population relocated to a nearby area that had not been used before. And after the 1976 nesting season about 60 percent of these

shrubs were defoliated and 8 percent were dead. The great damage done to the shrubs and vegetation caused the density of nests, that is, the number of nests per square meter, to decline by about two-thirds during the third year. In the affected areas, blueberry bushes failed to produce fruit. The quality of the underlying soil also deteriorated as a result of nesting. The PH count (acidic content) increased sharply as did the amount of chemicals and salts.

A heronry is a place of ordered chaos, of seasonal beginnings that are timeless, a place where birds, often not of a feather, create a gathering of strangers year after year. These remarkably flexible birds adapt to changing environments. They have withstood many crises ranging from their wholesale slaughter in the last century because of the demand for their plumes to hurricanes to motorboats, planes, and humans disturbing their nests.

Their awkward elegance at the nest and in the air is matched by their tenacity for life.



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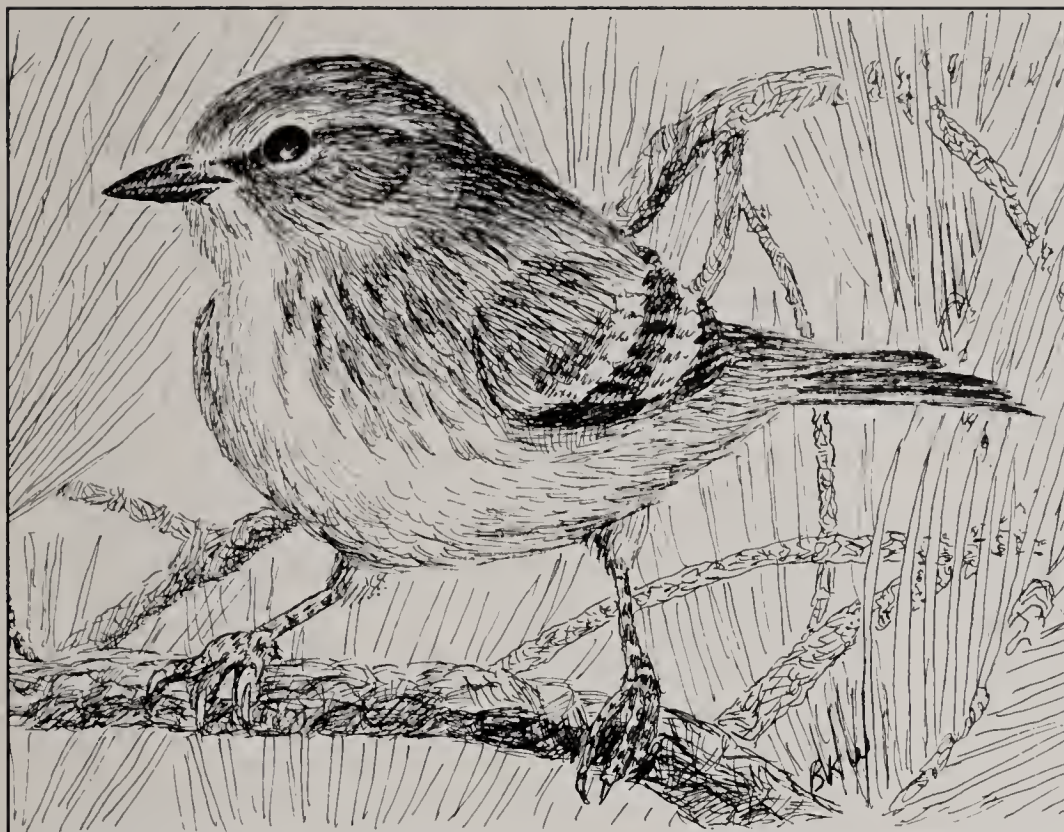
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Endnotes

1. A number of these birds have been known to breed in solitary circumstances.

2. James Weland of the Lafayette Natural History Museum supplied the list of birds breeding in the heronry. Anhingas were also breeding in this area.

3. A recent article raises some important questions regarding the size of colony question. See Joanna Burger and Michael Gochfeld. 1993. When is a Heronry Crowded: A Case Study of Huckleberry Island, New York, U.S.A. *Journal of Coastal Research*. Vol. 9, no. 1, pp. 221-228.



The Illinois 1995 Spring Bird Count

by Richard Anderson

Contrasting last year's inclement weather were good birding conditions for the 1995 Spring Bird Count (SBC). Observers tallied many new SBC records. A late spring also probably accounted for a number of high counts for the early migrants and low counts for the later migrants, especially those species relying on insects for food.

A few counties reported low temperatures in the 40s but the average lows were in the 50s and the highs in the 70s. Except for a few sprinkles in southwestern counties, partly cloudy to sunny skies were reported.

Ninety-seven counties reported their findings, two less than last year and five less than the maximum (Table 1). Perhaps the good weather explains a new high of 1,548 observers (Table 2). Twenty-three counties had 20 or more participants; Du Page

Table 1. Area Coverage

AREA	Possible No. of Counties	No. Counties Participating	No. Party Hours	Ave. No. P.H.* Per County
1	23	21 (91%)	687	32.7
2	28	26 (92%)	856	32.9
3	27	27 (100%)	1528	56.6
4	24	23 (95%)	2350	102.2
TOTAL	102	97 (95%)	5421	55.9

* P.H. = Party Hours

Table 2. Annual Comparisons

Numbers	1995	1994	1993	Highest Total
Species	266	265	254	266 (1995)
Individual Birds	554,407	497,170	467,847	554,407 (1995)
Participating Counties	97	99	92	102 (1986)
Observers	1,548	1,377	1,503	1,548 (1995)
Party Hours	5,420	4,989	5,245	5,420 (1995)
Party Miles Walked	2,628	2,049	2,390	2,628 (1995)
Party Miles Driven	22,052	22,503	20,667	22,503 (1994)
Species in 90% or more Counties	47	46	49	49 (91-93)
Counties with 100 or more Species	76	65	74	76 (1995)
Counties with 20 or more Observers	23	16	19	23 (3 yrs)

Above, Pine Warbler drawing by Brian K. Willis.

led with 138, Cook was next with 106 and Schuyler had 80. The rest are as follows: McDonough,66; Will,61; McHenry,48; Boone,43; Livingston,40; Lake,38; Champaign,36; Kane,35; Kendall and La Salle, 33; Stephenson, 30; Jo Daviess and Winnebago,25; Edgar,24; Madison and Vermilion,23; Logan,22; Coles and Crawford, 21; and Macon, 20. Weather surely influenced the party hours/miles totals. The party miles walking were almost 600 more miles higher than last year, a new high.

Observers reported a new high count of 266 species. The total of 554,828 individual birds is almost 7,400 higher than the previous high. The top five counties with the highest number of species were Cook (182), Will (177), La Salle (172) and Union tied with Lake (171). Other counties with 140 or more species include Macon (164), Champaign (160), Clinton (159), Rock Island (157), Mason (156), DuPage (152), Knox and Madison (150), Mercer and Vermilion (147); St. Clair (145), and Carroll and Coles (140).

There were 137 new state records for 84 species; 44 of those new records were for a greater number of counties reporting particular species; 56 records were for new state high counts; and 37 records were for new county high counts.

There were two new species for the Illinois SBC, a late Harlequin Duck in Lake County and a photographed Arctic Tern in Will County, the third state record (Table 3). The total number of SBC species seen during the 24 years of the count is 316.

All-time high counts were recorded for Pied-billed Grebe, American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Egret, and Snowy Egret. Cattle Egret numbers were down.

Observers also recorded new high totals for nine species of waterfowl, but Common Goldeneye, which was reported on 22 previous counts, was missing. New high numbers were also recorded for Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk,

Table 3.

Species Accounts for the 1995 Illinois Spring Bird Count

Key to Table

** = NEW SPRING BIRD COUNT SPECIES

* = New Spring Bird Count High

= Ties previous High Count

+ = Species reported in 90 or more counties

Species seen in only one county are bolded.

Species	Total Co.s	No.of Birds	High County	(Total)
Common Loon	19*	30	Lake	(5)
Pied-billed Grebe	69*	654*	Cook	(*159)
Horned Grebe	7#	10	Rock Island	(3)
Red-necked Grebe	1#	1	Champaign	(#1)
<u>Am. White Pelican</u>	8*	137*	Hancock	(*61)
Double-cr Cormorant	53*	5153*	Cook	(*1774)
American Bittern	21	33	Du Page	(8)
Least Bittern	2	3	Lee	(2)
Great Blue Heron+	96	3409	Will	(234)
<u>Great Egret</u>	55#	1213*	Will	(*427)
Snowy Egret	5#	17*	St. Clair	(#8)
Little Blue Heron	17	89	St. Clair	(28)
Cattle Egret	18	311	St. Clair	(217)
Green Heron	75	298	Union	(25)
<u>Blk-cr Night-Heron</u>	23	1155	Cook	(876)
Yel-cr Night-Heron	6	12	St. Clair	(7)
Mute Swan	14	131*	Lake	(*55)
Gr White-frnt Goose	1	1	Williamson	(1)
Snow Goose	3	10	Champaign	(6)
<u>Canada Goose+</u>	92	16398*	Du Page	(2520)
Wood Duck+	91	3056	Kane	(187)
Green-winged Teal	30*	110	Livingston	(15)
Am. Black Duck	16*	57*	Marshall	(*19)
Mallard+	91	8382	Du Page	(1502)
<u>Northern Pintail</u>	8	26	Tazewell	(11)
Blue-winged Teal	72	2480	Brown	(150)
Northern Shoveler	57*	617*	Mason	(*89)
Gadwall	25*	152*	Moultrie	(28)
American Wigeon	11	50	Lake	(16)
<u>Canvasback</u>	3	11	Carroll	(#6)
Redhead	8	20	Logan	(12)
Ring-necked Duck	24*	184	Mason	(40)
Greater Scaup	3#	9	Will	(6)
Lesser Scaup	52*	2710*	Hancock	(655)
**HARLEQUIN DUCK	1*	1*	Lake	(*1)
Surf Scoter	1	3#	La Salle	(*3)
White-winged Scoter	2*	2	Two counties	(1)
Bufflehead	16*	148*	Lake	(51)
Hooded Merganser	19*	50*	Two counties	(8)
<u>Common Merganser</u>	4	18	Tazewell	(6)

Table 3 (continued)

Species	Total Co.s	No.of Birds	High County	(Total)
Red-br Merganser	19*	1398	Cook	(832)
Ruddy Duck	33*	830*	Hancock	(*430)
Black Vulture	3	35*	Johnson	(*30)
Turkey Vulture+	91	2371*	Adams	(*156)
Osprey	22	29	Two counties	(3)
Bald Eagle	12	24	Fayette	(5)
Northern Harrier	36	87*	Du Page	(*9)
Sharp-shinned Hawk	44*	106*	Du Page	(12)
Cooper's Hawk	42*	133*	Lake	(*24)
Red-shouldered Hawk	27	71	Two counties	(8)
Broad-winged Hawk	38*	175	Kane	(19)
Swainson's Hawk	2	3#	Kane	(2)
Red-tailed Hawk+	96	1752*	Jo Daviess	(*126)
Rough-legged Hawk	2	2	Two counties	(1)
American Kestrel	85	633*	Cook	(38)
Merlin	4	4	Four counties	(#1)
Peregrine Falcon	2	3	Cook	(2)
Gray Partridge	2	7	Lee	(4)
Ring-neck Pheasant	64	1475	Champaign	(117)
Gr Prairie-Chicken	1	56	Jasper	(56)
Wild Turkey	65*	539*	Jo Daviess	(*108)
Northern Bobwhite	81	1565	Crawford	(91)
Black Rail	2*	2	Two counties	(1)
King Rail	3	3	Three counties	(1)
Virginia Rail	27*	131*	Lake	(*40)
Sora	52	673*	Lake	(94)
Common Moorhen	14*	47	Cook	(22)
American Coot	73	7229	Tazewell	(1375)
Sandhill Crane	10*	81*	McHenry	(*28)
Blk-bellied Plover	3	8	Will	(6)
Am. Golden-Plover	24	5219	Livingston	(1552)
Semipalmated Plover	22	314	Marshall	(115)
Piping Plover	1	1	Mason	(1)
Killdeer+	97	3831*	Will	(231)
American Avocet	1	1	Lake	(1)
Greater Yellowlegs	53	820	Will	(*91)
Lesser Yellowlegs	67	1977	Will	(*400)
Solitary Sandpiper	81*	650	Will	(67)
Willet	4	23	Kendall	(10)
Spotted Sandpiper	76	700	Cook	(60)
Upland Sandpiper	13	53	Will	(25)
Marbled Godwit	1	1	Will	(1)
Sanderling	1	1	Lake	(1)
Semipalm Sandpiper	26	151	Will	(29)
Western Sandpiper	2	2	Two counties	(1)
Least Sandpiper	40	642	Clinton	(90)
Wht-rump Sandpiper	4	8	Clinton	(3)
Baird's Sandpiper	1	5	Macon	(5)

Continued on next page

Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Virginia Rail, Sora, American Coot, and Sandhill Crane.

Shorebirds were generally found in low numbers; only early migrants, such as Killdeer, both yellowlegs, and American Woodcock registered new highs. A high state and county count of eight Buff-breasted Sandpipers in Vermilion County is noteworthy. More owling hours resulted in new high counts for Great Horned and Barred Owls. Downy, Hairy, and Pileated Woodpeckers all registered new high counts while Red-headed Woodpecker numbers were down.

Flycatchers were low except for Eastern Phoebe, another species on the all-time high list. Fish Crow and common nesting species such as both chickadees, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher were also observed in record numbers.

Conversely, numbers for most warblers were low, especially for the late migrants. The Pine Warbler, however, did make the all-time high list. Swainson's Warbler was once again not reported. Among the seedeaters, Northern Cardinal, Chipping, Lark, Savannah, and Song Sparrows registered new highs. Of the 201 Lapland Longspurs reported, 200 were in one flock in De Kalb County, a new high county count. The good news is that Eastern Meadowlark reached a new high; the bad news is, so did Red-winged Blackbird and Brown-headed Cowbird. Not surprisingly, House Finches were 1,200 above their previous high. Thirty-three Pine Siskins was a good count for a non-flight year.

Although Monk Parakeet is not on the Illinois Checklist and not countable, this species' numbers is published to assess its changing status. Only 14 individuals of this species were reported; 10 from Cook County, 2 from Randolph County, and 1 each from Du Page and Lake Counties.

There were 11 species reported from 97 counties and 8 in 96 counties. The 20 most common species followed the normal pattern (Table 4). Last year's heavy

flight of swallows did not recur on count day this year, but were evident one day earlier. Only the Tree Swallow made the list at No. 19. Yellow-rumped Warbler jumped from 20th position last year to 14th place this year.

In addition to the two new species, other rarities were: Red-necked

Grebe (4th count record) in Champaign County, Black Rail (5th and 6th records) in Henderson and Vermilion Counties, and Marbled Godwit (7th record) in Will County.

I thank David Johnson, Ron Goetz, Vernon Kleen, and the other members of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee for review-

ing documentations. More than 100 documentation forms were submitted. Only three out-of-season and one heard-only species were not accepted.



Anderson
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Table 3 (continued)

Species	Total Co.s	No.of Birds	High County	(Total)
Pectoral Sandpiper	41	1527	La Salle	(306)
Dunlin	16	142	Boone	(60)
Stilt Sandpiper	3	4	Rock Island	(2)
Buff-brst Sandpiper	1	8*	Vermilion	(*8)
Shrt-bill Dowitcher	24	168	Mason	(40)
Long-bill Dowitcher	7*	35	Mason	(18)
Common Snipe	30	151	Cook	(25)
American Woodcock	40	227*	McHenry	(36)
Wilson's Phalarope	1	1	Union	(1)
Red-neck Phalarope	1#	1	Coles	(1)
Laughing Gull	1	1	Franklin	(1)
<u>Bonaparte's Gull</u>	12	229	Shelby	(70)
Ring-billed Gull	57	19757	Cook	(15000)
Herring Gull	22	1018	Lake	(490)
Thayer's Gull	1#	2	Lake	(2)
Iceland Gull	1#	2*	Lake	(*2)
<u>Glaucous Gull</u>	2*	2#	Two counties	(1)
Caspian Tern	14	338	Lake	(*175)
Common Tern	21	157	Lake	(50)
**ARCTIC TERN	1*	1*	Will	(*1)
Forster's Tern	32	514	Lake	(130)
Black Tern	17	68	McHenry	(13)
Rock Dove+	91	6500	Cook	(1048)
Mourning Dove+	97	12639	Boone	(651)
Black-bill Cuckoo	10	19	Jackson	(5)
Yellow-bill Cuckoo	38	94	Union	(19)
Barn Owl	2*	2	Two counties	(1)
E. Screech-Owl	43	103	Union	(10)
Great Horned Owl	76*	386*	Du Page	(25)
Barred Owl	82*	473*	Knox	(*61)
Short-eared Owl	1	1	Lee	(1)
<u>Common Nighthawk</u>	43	189	Union	(22)
Chuck-will's-widow	9	41	Calhoun	(13)
Whip-poor-will	58	536	Union	(*93)
Chimney Swift+	94	5632	McDonough	(415)
Ruby-t Hummingbird	64	342	Union	(39)

Table 3 (continued)

Species	Total Co.s	No.of Birds	High County	(Total)
<u>Belted Kingfisher</u>	79	487	Cook	(29)
Red-head Woodpecker+	96	2571	McDonough	(131)
Red-bell Woodpecker+	94	2474*	Union	(97)
Yell-bell Sapsucker	34*	96	Cook	(21)
Downy Woodpecker+	95	2559*	Du Page	(181)
<u>Hairy Woodpecker</u>	81	439*	Will	(22)
Northern Flicker+	97	3086	Cook	(329)
Pileated Woodpecker	53	277*	Union	(*74)
Olive-s Flycatcher	8	10	Calhoun	(3)
Eastern Wood-Pewee	68	372	Union	(89)
<u>Acadian Flycatcher</u>	25	120	Union	(62)
Willow Flycatcher	10	13	Will	(4)
Least Flycatcher	45	126	Cook	(12)
Eastern Phoebe+	92*	1053*	Union	(*79)
Grt Crst Flycatcher	80	732	Union	(120)
<u>Eastern Kingbird+</u>	92	1433	Union	(169)
Horned Lark+	92	2520	McHenry	(98)
Purple Martin	86	2117	Whiteside	(131)
Tree Swallow+	93*	7366	Cook	(1029)
No.Rough-wg Swallow	88	2361	Adams	(147)
<u>Bank Swallow</u>	60	2920	Greene	(320)
Cliff Swallow	48	979	Massac	(435)
Barn Swallow+	95	6793	Cook	(357)
Blue Jay+	97	10661	Cook	(927)
American Crow+	97	12491	Cook	(1406)
<u>Fish Crow</u>	8#	80*	Union	(61)
Blk-cap Chickadee	66	4710*	Du Page	(532)
Carolina Chickadee	36	1093*	Alexander	(*149)
Tufted Titmouse+	95#	3531*	McDonough	(166)
Red-brst Nuthatch	10	32	Champaign	(13)
<u>Wht-brst Nuthatch+</u>	94	1760*	McHenry	(78)
Brown Creeper	28	104	Cook	(27)
Carolina Wren	79	1137	Union	(125)
Bewick's Wren	1	1	Pope	(1)
House Wren+	93	4506	Will	(312)
<u>Winter Wren</u>	9	25	Cook	(*15)

Table 3 (continued)

Species	Total Co.s	No.of Birds	High County	(Total)
Sedge Wren	23*	87*	Macon	(*22)
Marsh Wren	31*	84	Cook	(12)
Golden-cr Kinglet	5	19	Two counties	(7)
Ruby-cr Kinglet	70	1701	Cook	(377)
Blue-gr Gnatcatcher	86*	2399*	Union	(330)
Eastern Bluebird+	95	2757	Union	(192)
Veery	49	140	Union	(25)
Gray-cheeked Thrush	44	151	Union	(46)
Swainson's Thrush	52	361	Union	(125)
Hermit Thrush	42#	265*	Cook	(47)
Wood Thrush	86	980	Union	(142)
American Robin+	97	35720	Cook	(2209)
Gray Catbird+	95	1334	Du Page	(69)
No. Mockingbird	75	715	Union	(60)
Brown Thrasher+	96	3452	Will	(173)
Water Pipit	8	30	Lake	(10)
Cedar Waxwing	37	662	Du Page	(112)
Loggerhead Shrike	40	145	Union	(23)
European Starling+	96	32741	Will	(2084)
White-eyed Vireo	57	464	Union	(126)
Bell's Vireo	14	28	Hancock	(9)
Solitary Vireo	43*	104	Champaign	(10)
Yellow-thrt Vireo	54	282	Union	(70)
Warbling Vireo	84#	1098	Clinton	(58)
Philadelphia Vireo	16	32	Du Page	(6)
Red-eyed Vireo	65	503	Union	(99)
Blue-winged Warbler	45	151	Union	(18)
Golden-wngd Warbler	24	57	Union	(9)
Tennessee Warbler	70	689	Union	(165)
Orange-crwn Warbler	21	45	Macon	(6)
Nashville Warbler	65	607	Clinton	(45)
Northern Parula	54	541*	Union	(*111)
Yellow Warbler	83	2420	Du Page	(284)
Chestnut-s Warbler	27	68	Union	(12)
Magnolia Warbler	29	104	Will	(22)
Cape May Warbler	21	31	Four counties	(3)
Blk-th Blue Warbler	9	14	Cook	(4)
Yellow-rump Warbler+ 94#		10559	Cook	(1106)
Blk-th Grn Warbler	65	513	Champaign	(59)
Blackburnian Warbler	30	64	Stephenson	(8)
Yellow-th Warbler	32	164	Union	(*63)
Pine Warbler	37*	156*	Pope	(*22)
Prairie Warbler	12	83	Pope	(19)
Palm Warbler+	91*	4977	Cook	(522)
Bay-brstd Warbler	12	21	Union	(4)

Table 3 (continued)

Species	Total Co.s	No.of Birds	High County	(Total)
Blackpoll Warbler	39	223	Union	(82)
Cerulean Warbler	27	82	Union	(12)
Blk-&-wht Warbler	71	286	Cook	(33)
American Redstart	61	366	Rock Island	(60)
Prothonotary Warblr	57	419*	Union	(82)
Worm-eating Warbler	20	100	Union	(64)
Ovenbird	64	314	Mason	(30)
No. Waterthrush	66	350	Cook	(44)
La. Waterthrush	39	149	Union	(60)
Kentucky Warbler	37	322	Union	(141)
Connecticut Warbler	1	1	Macon	(1)
Mourning Warbler	2	4	Two counties	(2)
Common Yellowthroat+	91	2314	Union	(278)
Hooded Warbler	11	38	Union	(22)
Wilson's Warbler	10	16	Three counties	(3)
Canada Warbler	5	11	Hancock	(6)
Yellow-brstd Chat	33	205	Union	(66)
Summer Tanager	34	212	Union	(99)
Scarlet Tanager	69	348	Union	(60)
Northern Cardinal+	97	12088*	Du Page	(677)
Rose-brst Grosbeak	86	1516	Adams	(105)
Blue Grosbeak	19	60	Union	(15)
Indigo Bunting	82	2161	Union	(387)
Dickcissel	64	590	Randolph	(73)
Rufous-sided Towhee+	91	1843	Mason	(103)
Am. Tree Sparrow	4	9	Lake	(4)
Chipping Sparrow+	93	5185*	McDonough	(285)
Clay-color Sparrow	2	2	Two counties	(1)
Field Sparrow+	95	3632	Will	(267)
Vesper Sparrow	51	216	Will	(19)
Lark Sparrow	32	211*	Mason	(34)
Savannah Sparrow	61	743	Cook	(107)
Grasshopper Sparrow	70	467	Henry	(35)
Henslow's Sparrow	5	6	Union	(2)
Fox Sparrow	4	5	Boone	(2)
Song Sparrow+	96	7475*	Du Page	(*707)
Lincoln's Sparrow	32	79	Cook	(11)
Swamp Sparrow	76*	1601	Cook	(218)
White-thr Sparrow	89	7386	Champaign	(760)
White-crwn Sparrow+	94*	2418	Champaign	(124)
Harris' Sparrow	1	1	Hancock	(1)
Dark-eyed Junco	10	36	Ogle	(14)
Lapland Longspur	2	201	De Kalb	(*200)
Smith's Longspur	2	11	Sangamon	(6)

Continued on next page

Table 3 (continued)

Total Species	No. of Co.s	Birds	High County	(Total)
<u>Bobolink</u>	66	1678	Jasper	(250)
Red-wing Blackbird+	97	69627	Du Page	(4203)
Eastern Meadowlark+	96	8036*	Will	(378)
Western Meadowlark	29#	162	Two counties	(18)
Yel-head Blackbird	10	124	Rock Island	(26)
<u>Rusty Blackbird</u>	10*	42	Cook	(21)
Brewer's Blackbird	1	4	Lake	(4)
Common Grackle+	97	40371	Will	(2389)
Brown-head Cowbird	96	12542*	Du Page	(596)
Orchard Oriole	59	371	Union	(92)
<u>Northern Oriole+</u>	95	1770	Adams	(106)
Purple Finch	34	405	Livingston	(*109)
House Finch+	94*	5463*	Cook	(457)
Pine Siskin	9	33	Two counties	(10)
American Goldfinch+	97	12467	Du Page	(939)
<u>House Sparrow+</u>	97	26699	Jo Daviess	(1439)
Eur. Tree Sparrow	22	445	Mason	(49)

Key to Table

** = NEW SPRING BIRD COUNT SPECIES

* = New Spring Bird Count High

= Ties previous High Count

+ = Species reported in 90 or more counties

Species seen in only one county are bolded.

Table 4. Twenty Most Common Species

Red-winged Blackbird	69,627
Common Grackle	40,371
American Robin	35,720
European Starling	32,741
<u>House Sparrow</u>	<u>26,699</u>
Ring-billed Gull	19,757
Canada Goose	16,398
Mourning Dove	12,639
Brown-headed Cowbird	12,542
<u>American Crow</u>	<u>12,491</u>
American Goldfinch	12,467
Northern Cardinal	12,088
Blue Jay	10,661
Yellow-rumped Warbler	10,559
<u>Mallard</u>	<u>8,382</u>
Eastern Meadowlark	8,036
Song Sparrow	7,475
White-throated Sparrow	7,386
Tree Swallow	7,366
<u>American Coot</u>	<u>7,229</u>

In Memory of Dick Anderson

Dick Anderson, a prominent birding figure in the St. Louis area for more than 45 years, died in a St. Louis hospital on Jan. 26, 1995. He was a self-taught birder with a keen eye for detail. Even though paralyzed after an auto injury eight years ago, Dick found ingenious ways to continue his birding interests.

Dick had been active in compiling bird checklists since 1958, was a former Subregional Editor for *American Birds*, a member of the Missouri Bird Record Committee, and an editor for the Illinois Spring Bird Count for the past two years. His spring bird count articles and tables were

published in *Meadowlark*. Dick had also been a long-time compiler for Monroe County's Spring Bird Count.

In December 1995, after several years work, Dick and his co-authors were rewarded by Webster Groves Nature Study Society's printing of their new spiral-bound 200-page book, "Birds of the St. Louis Area, where and when to find them."

Dick has provided many valuable services to the St. Louis and southwestern Illinois birding community. Those who knew Dick will really miss him.

--Vernon Kleen

Spring Beauties

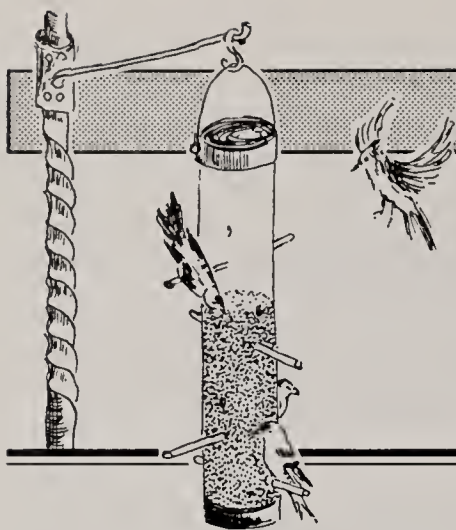


Dennis Oehmke captured these photos of three spring beauties; species which migrate through Illinois in April and May.



Pictured top left, a Cattle Egret in breeding plumage photographed 2 May 1995 in Springfield, IL; top right, a Carolina Wren with a meal, discovered 5 May 1995 in Salisbury, IL; and a pair of Lesser Scaup photographed 14 April 1995 in Washington Park, Springfield, IL.





FEEDER STATION

Landscaped cornfield attracts birds

by Laurel Ann Kaiser

When I was single, I lived in apartments and condominiums, and didn't have the chance to attract birds and other wildlife in my backyard. In fact, after I married my husband, Jim, six years ago, we began looking for townhouses and condos. Life was just too busy to worry about a yard, landscaping and, mowing lawns.

But something deep in the back of our minds told us we wanted a real home with a backyard. So we bought a new garden home in Mundelein built atop a cornfield. Little did we realize that landscaping for birds would soon consume most of our free time from spring until fall. First we planted edge bushes including winterberries, honeysuckle, forsythia, and dogwood. Jim next planted raised beds for azaleas, annuals, perennials, and bulbs, and designed a sunken brick patio with a Japanese maple, and finally a kidney-shaped landscaped area with bird feeding station, bird-bath, junipers, rocks, and twigs. This is a favorite spot for many of the birds that come to feed - House Finches, grackles, robins, Mourning Doves, Blue Jays, sparrows, starlings, cardinals, chickadees, and even Cedar Waxwings. This may sound unremarkable to some, but remember, we are in a new area, with no trees, and our neighbors have mostly planted fences. But we provide what birds need - food, water, and shelter.

On our deck we grow potted fuschias, which the migrating Ruby-

throated Hummingbirds enjoy. On early September mornings I rush to the kitchen window to see the hummers drink the nectar, darting from fuschia to geranium to impatiens. We also hung a window feeder by our kitchen and stocked it with thistle, which attracts goldfinches and House Finches all spring and summer. We enjoy watching the goldfinches dart from the feeder to the nearby Japanese maple in their unique undulating pattern.

Cardinal courtship feeding is another frequent occurrence at our modest bird sanctuary, especially after we tried safflower hearts, which the bright red birds love. At our raised beds, sunflower seeds are the fare, and the birds help our plantings by providing us with beautiful sunflowers that grow from their sloppy eating behavior.

Black-capped Chickadees have even nested in our next door neighbor's wooden fence post! We like to think the chickadees were first attracted to our array of feeder goodies and then scouted out a nesting spot close to the local eatery.

The summer of 1995, a female Song Sparrow laid four oval brown-spotted eggs in a neatly constructed nest in our 3-foot tall globe arbor vitae adjacent to the Japanese maple. She laid one egg per day beginning in early July completing the clutch at four. While I watered my perennials, she incubated the eggs. The male sometimes sang nearby. Then on July 21, the first of three nestlings was born. The last egg never hatched. I was having a garden party in a few

days so I put a sign near the nest asking my visitors to keep away from the nesting birds. The adult Song Sparrows were nervous when the guests arrived. But the day after the party, I saw a fledgling Song Sparrow sitting atop the arbor vitae and an adult feeding it a juicy black cricket. A few days later, the fledgling Song Sparrows were gone, but the thrill that this species chose our humble, makeshift nature preserve remains.

When fall approaches, our perennial beds attract migrating White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows which search for bugs among the leaves and debris. The winterberries and hedges that surround our backyard provide a safe haven for these birds as they nourish themselves for their long migratory flight.

We stock our feeders year-round. Nothing is more heartening on a blustery wintry day than to look right outside my window, in my modest home in an unremarkable neighborhood and spy a ruby red cardinal amid the grayish-white snow. Spring mornings are so much more delightful with the robin's insistent, clear tones, ringing through my cracked-open window. What could be more fun than to watch a robin and a sparrow furiously ruffling their feathers after a cooling dip in our bird bath? The ebb and flow of seasonal changes are what I like best about living in northern Illinois, and backyard birding heightens this feeling one-hundred fold.

*Feeder Station Illustration
by Denis Kania.*

*Kaiser
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Meadowlark

Red-necked Grebe Visits Champaign County Shopping Mall

As a compiler-coordinator for the Champaign County Spring Bird Count, I had been busy rounding up the troops and assigning them to their territories. Now it was 4:30 a.m. on 6 May 1995 and time to see what the day would bring. I had carefully plotted my usual route to cover all those bits and pieces of the county which no one else finds exciting enough to check. No bird-filled forest preserves for my partner and me, but rather, the Champaign city parks, the Parkland College campus, the Urbana sludge ponds, and the various detention basins. This route is not exactly a self-sacrifice. It covers a wide variety of habitat, yields a good species total for the count, and often something unique.

We dutifully tramped around Kaufman Lake, noting a dearth of warblers. We trudged to the water treatment plant at Parkland College, where we tallied the county's only gulls of the day. Then we stood overlooking the Marketplace Mall retention basin in Champaign. This is a large, deep pond, probably originally a gravel pit. It is surrounded by a chain link fence and is well below the level of the road, providing a good overview. Adjacent to the basin is the area's largest shopping center.

My companion was Malcolm Sargent, a botanist and a good birder. His sharp eyes spotted something I didn't. As I struggled to set up my scope, he said, "There is a big grebe out there with lots of red on its neck. What could it be?"

Of course it dove before I got a look. It is amazing how long a grebe can stay under when you are eagerly waiting for it to surface. A Pied-billed Grebe appeared, but Sargent assured me that it was not the right bird. Suddenly, there it was, a Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps*

grisegena) in beautiful breeding plumage.

This was a life bird for Sargent and one that I have not seen often, but there was no mistaking its identity. The large size, stout, sharp bill, dark back and hind neck, shiny black cap, and above all, the rusty, red fore-neck sharply demarcated from the white throat and cheeks were clear field marks. The grebe fished industriously during the half hour we spent watching it.

Bohlen (1989) listed this grebe as an occasional migrant with most spring records occurring in March and April. This individual was a new record for Champaign County and stayed for several days, allowing more experienced birders to enjoy seeing it and to confirm our sighting.

Literature Cited

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First Northern Illinois Anhinga

My plan for 22 April 1995 was to sample the progress of migration at several sites in Kane and DuPage Counties.

Late morning brought me to

McKee Marsh, DuPage County, where an Osprey was soaring overhead. I was enjoying a Great Blue Heron sitting on a snag, when next to it landed a bird I had first seen 30 years ago in the Florida Everglades and not since, certainly not in northern Illinois.

It was a female Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*). I noted the small head; pointed, elongated bill; the black body except for the distinctive buffish-white snake-like neck, buffish-white breast, and silver-streaked back; and the long tail. It was as unmistakable as it was incredible.



Female Anhinga, McKee Marsh, DuPage County, first northern Illinois record. 24 April 1995. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

It took all the rest of the day to spread the word, but with the help of Jim and Kate Frazier, managers of the DuPage birding hotline, by evening, many birders had begun arriving from the Chicago area.

An occurrence of note for a birder can be a disaster for a vagrant bird. An Anhinga in DuPage County in April was a bird seriously out of its normal environment, so there was substantial anxiety whether the bird would be able to survive so early in the season and so far north. However, the Anhinga stayed at McKee until 1 May, was photographed, and joined the life and Illinois lists of many birders.

Ronald C. Flemal,
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Chicago's First Anhingas

The Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) had no place in the avifauna of northern Illinois until 22 April 1995, when a female was found in DuPage County. Since I lacked a car and felt quite possessive of my available birding time in my usual turf of Jackson Park on Chicago's south side, I did not pursue this remarkable discovery. Rather, I invoked my standing half-jest rhetoric: "I'll wait till I catch up with it in Jackson Park."

My joke turned to fact twice over just one week later on 28 April, when I spotted two Anhingas flying southeast behind the Museum of Science and Industry.

The Jackson Park Anhingas would have been a cinch to identify in the Florida Everglades, but in the confines of a Chicago lakefront park, I was unprepared for them despite the DuPage County record. The birds were coasting at a considerable height, about that of a 20-story building, though low enough to catch the attention of the naked eye.

I got my binoculars and in a few seconds, I absorbed what I could of details of shape and pattern on the departing birds realizing these were indeed Anhingas.

My total viewing time was no more than four to six seconds before the birds coasted directly into blinding sunlight. Fortunately, this species' utterly distinctive shape allowed me to rule out all other North American birds.

Paul R. Clyne
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Editor's Note: Bohlen (1989, *The Birds of Illinois*) said the Anhinga, a southern species, is a very rare vagrant in Illinois, adding that the numbers of state records seem to be increasing, although he notes no northern Illinois records. Bohlen does say that, "Anhingas soar on thermals like hawks when migrating; with the right winds they can be drifted northward."

Female Anhinga, McKee Marsh, DuPage County, first northern Illinois record. 24 April 1995.
Photo by Dennis Oehmke.

White-faced Ibis Near Goose Lake Prairie in Grundy County

Late 15 May 1995, I decided to go for a walk at Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area in northeast Grundy County. At 7:15 p.m. I turned onto Jughandle Road to the park's entrance. About one-half mile down on the east side of the road, I noticed a flooded field. Driving slowly, I noted the usual puddle ducks, a few Great Blue Herons, and many shorebirds. Then I spotted a brownish bird with a long decurved bill in the taller vegetation.

I stopped the car, got out my spotting scope, and noted as many field marks as I could. The bird stood about 2 feet tall and seemed to be about the size of a Snowy Egret or Little Blue Heron. It was a deep chestnut color with an iridescent green coloring on the wings. The bill was long and decurved and it had a well-defined white border which began at the top of the bill, went around the eye, and under the chin. I had found a White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*) in breeding plumage, a state bird for me.

Unfortunately, I was only able to observe the bird a few minutes before it flew east into Goose Lake Prairie. I was not able to relocate the bird that evening, though I searched until it got dark. Fortunately, the bird was relocated and photographed the next day by Joe Milosevich

who confirmed the identification. The bird was also seen on 17 May by Al Stokie, Eric Walters, and Wes Serafin. The White-faced Ibis is considered a rare vagrant in Illinois with almost all sightings occur in spring (Bohlen, 1989).

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Literature Cited

Bohlen, H.D. 1989. The Birds of Illinois. Indiana University Press. Bloomington, IN.



Adult White-faced Ibis at Goose Lake Prairie State Park, Grundy Co., first Grundy County record. 16 May 1995. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

suited to usher in late western migrants. Unusually cool and wet weather in late April forestalled migration, yielding a remarkable number of late dates. Southwest winds prevailed for three days leading up to the bird's visit, then shifted northwest on 14 May, gusting to 25 mph.

One observation detail, the orange bill, was initially disconcerting; *The National Geographic Field Guide to Birds of North America* said that an orange bill is diagnostic of the Greenland race of Greater White-fronted Goose, an unlikely Illinois vagrant, especially given the prevailing winds. It was with some comfort that I read Kenn Kaufman's discussion of the Greenland subspecies of the Greater White-fronted Goose in the December 1994 issue of *Birding*. Kaufman found that, more often than not, observers pressed to address bill color of white-fronts in western North America, described the bill as orange, not pink as depicted in the

Greater White-fronted Goose at Chicago in Mid-May

An unbanded, free-flying Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) was seen on the remarkably late dates of 14-15 May, 1995, at Jackson Park on Chicago's south side. This appears to represent the latest valid spring date for this species in Illinois. Bohlen (1989) cited three May dates, the latest on 10 May 1986. He also noted a record from 6-12 June 1982, but stated that the origin of the bird was "in question." As is typical of errant white-fronts, the Jackson Park bird associated with a flock of Canada Geese. I observed it with John Harshman the morning of 15 May, as it fed and preened in undisturbed waters at Wooded Island's east lagoon.

Later that afternoon, Tom Jackman found the bird on the Museum of Science and Industry's reflecting pond. Jackman also saw it with the resident Canada Geese. It was the last bird to leave the water to graze on the lawn, and when a dog appeared, it was the first bird to fly. Jackman obtained photographs which revealed the condition of the flight feathers; they showed normal wear for a wild individual and lacked the tattered edges typical of captive birds.

Mid-May 1995 weather conditions were ideally



Greater White-fronted Goose, Jackson Park, Cook Co., 14 May 1995, latest spring date for Illinois. Photo by Thomas Jackman.

field guides, and that there are no published diagnostic field marks for North American versus Greenland Greater White-fronted Geese.

Thanks to John Harshman who discovered the bird, to Tom Jackman for sharing photographs on behavior observations, and to David Mandell for calling Kaufman's article to my attention.

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A Ross' Goose Invasion in Winnebago County - 13 Birds!

On 8 March 1995, I began birding at 6:30 a.m. After stopping at various locations in Winnebago County, I had seen several species of resident and migrant birds, including many ducks.

About 11:30, I arrived at Howard's farm along Route 70 near Durand. This property consists of open pastureland with several ponds and streams near the Pecatonica River. It is surrounded by corn fields and woodland and known as the best place in Winnebago County for migrating geese.

I immediately noticed several Snow Geese (both blue and white morphs) with the many thousands of Canada Geese. I began scanning through the geese with my scope and spotted two white geese with black wing tips, like a Snow Goose, but they were much smaller, had short, stocky necks, and very short, stubby pink bills. They were obviously Ross' Geese (*Chen rossii*).

As I watched, most of the geese, including the Ross' Geese, lifted into the air. At this time, I noticed a large flock of approximately 200 Snow Geese flying in from the southeast. Eventually, all the geese settled down again. While scanning, I found eleven Greater White-fronted Geese, with yet more Canada and Snow Geese.

Continuing to scan, I discovered a group of 13 birds that were slightly separated from the rest of the geese. Most had their heads tucked under their wings, but three or four had their heads raised. Again, the white and black plumage, small size, short neck, and stubby bill gave away their identity. Eventually, all the birds in the group began to graze; all 13 birds were Ross' Geese.

While watching these birds for at least half an hour, I had excellent views in direct comparison to Canada, Greater White-fronted, and both forms of Snow Geese.

This flock represented the second Winnebago County record. The first Ross' Goose record for the county were the two my brother Randy and I found at the same location 21-24 November 1994. At least a few of the Ross' Geese stayed through 16 March and were seen by many other observers.

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Illinois' First Spring Bird Count Record and Third State Record of an Arctic Tern

My winding Spring Bird Count route through western Will County typically brings me to the Braidwood Nuclear Station Cooling Lake sometime during the afternoon. A discouraging lack of migrants in the Des Plaines and Kankakee River valleys that morning had hastened my arrival at Braidwood on 6 May 1995. After tallying only six species of warblers and two thrushes, I was hopeful that something interesting like the immature Bonaparte's Gull I had seen there the day before would cross my path and add a spark of excitement to what was shaping up to be one of my worst SBCs.

As luck would have it, the Bonaparte's Gull was still flying around the same boat launch area of the lake. Finally! I next checked the mouth of the channel near the screening plant, which is in a restricted portion of the cooling lake. The metal breakwater situated at the mouth of this channel provides one of the very few offshore perch sites available on the lake. Hence, it is a fairly reliable loafing spot for cormorants, gulls, and terns that could otherwise go unnoticed on a lake of this size with its many strip mine islands. My good fortune continued as several terns - always good birds on a Will County SBC - were waiting for me.

I viewed the terns from my car from about 50 to 75 yards with a window-mounted scope. During the next hour and a half, between 1 and 2:30 pm, I observed approximately 40 terns.

The eight Black Terns present were easily separated from the other larger, lighter-colored terns. While attempting to separate the remaining birds as either Common or Forster's, I noticed one adult tern with a much smaller, all red bill. Upon closer investigation, I could see that this tern had very short legs compared with the adjacent Common and Forster's Terns. Leg length was easily discernable because the metal breakwater rose a few feet above the water. As I studied the tern's smaller build and well-rounded head further, it became quite clear that I was looking at an Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*).

Due to the strong overhead lighting, the Arctic Tern's white cheek patch and grayish underparts were not visible. In addition, I was unable to get a satisfactory view of the tern in flight to note the wingtips as field marks. I was, however, able to photograph the bird well enough to clearly depict the tern's shorter legs and smaller bill. One



Adult Arctic Tern, second from left, Braidwood Nuclear Station Cooling Lake, Will Co., third Illinois record, second Will County record. 6 May 1995. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

photo even reveals a white cheek patch which I was unable to note in the field.

This Arctic Tern represents only the third Illinois record for this species. The first occurred on Lake Springfield 28 June through 1 July, 1992 (Bohlen, 1993). The second was also recorded in Will County on 27 May 1993. All of Illinois' records for this very rare vagrant have been adult birds in breeding plumage. I have had the unique pleasure of seeing and photographing all three of Illinois' Arctic Terns.

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Bohlen, H. David. First Illinois Record of the Arctic Tern. *Meadowlark*, A Journal of Illinois Birds. 2:12.

Editor's Note: Milosevich's account of Illinois' second Arctic Tern is published in Meadowlark 2:140.

White-tailed Kite at Springfield, Sangamon County

While walking back to my truck on 21 April 1995 at Washington Park in Springfield, I noticed two or three Broad-winged Hawks floating over. Then a whitish bird about the size of a Ring-billed Gull approached from the south, just above the tree tops. As I watched the bird, I decided it was not a gull. Suddenly, it thundered into my mind that the bird was a White-

tailed Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*). The bird turned into a west wind with a bouncing flight and I ran east to keep it in sight.

I had a fairly brief view - about 30 seconds - while I was moving east and stopping to get looks at the bird. In its gliding posture, the wings were held in a horizontal manner. The head was white and no bill was protruding as it would with a gull. I could clearly see the solid black shoulder patch on the upper left wing and also, the grayish under-primaries of the right wing. The wingtips were fairly pointed. The all-white tail was long and squared off. I did not see leg, eye, or bill color because of the distance and apparently missed the small black patch at the wrist of the underwing, if it was present.

The bird passed out of sight heading WNW behind a treeline. I jumped into my truck and raced west, but soon became snarled in traffic. I drove west of Springfield and scanned the sky, but never could relocate the kite. I stopped and drew a crude sketch and took brief notes on what I had seen.

In 1969 and 1970, I lived and worked at Camp Pendleton in California where I saw several of these raptors daily. I am convinced, even with my rather brief fly-by look, that the bird was a White-tailed Kite. Illinois' first White-tailed Kite occurred 9 May 1987 near Williamsfield, Knox County (Baum, 1987).

Literature Cited

Baum, M.H. 1987. Illinois' Black-shouldered Kite. *Illinois Birds and Birding* 3:60-61.

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Scissor-tailed Flycatcher Visits DeKalb County

On 25 April 1995, I was informed by a local biologist and co-worker, Terry Martin, that a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) was discovered by Matt, Philip, and Rita Nielsen in a south-central DeKalb County horse pasture. I had seen this species only in field guides. On 23 April, Phil Nielsen and his son, Matt, went out to care for the horses on their farm when Matt noticed a distinctive-looking bird sitting on the barbed wire fence along the pasture's south edge.

Due to its distinguishing features, the Nielsen family was able to identify the bird as a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. Bohlen (1989) describes this species as "unmistakable" due to its long tail and gray body, which contrasts with salmon wing linings.

At noon on 25 April, another biologist, Janice Grainger, and I visited the pasture. We scanned the pasture with binoculars for 30 minutes to no avail. About 4:30 p.m., we returned with still and video cameras. The warm and sunny day had become cloudy and it was sprinkling. As we turned east onto Shabbona Grove Road, we watched the barbed wire fence along the south edge of the pasture. Finally, we saw the flycatcher sitting on the fence about one meter from the ground.

The bird, an adult male, flew off into the pasture and perched on some small, woody stems near ground level. We videotaped it as it displayed the flycatcher's characteristic sallying behavior. The bird flew out a few meters close to the ground, spread its long tail feathers, flashed its bright salmon wing linings, then returned to its perch. At times, it hovered and moved in a zig-zag pattern.

The habitat was appropriate for this species - an open pasture with a wooded creek running along its northern edge with two fence rows of trees bisecting the eastern half. The activity of a small number of horses moving in the grassy area stirred up insects, facilitating the bird's hunting.

Within 30 minutes, Terry Martin and his wife, Sherrie, arrived. Shortly after, Philip Nielsen arrived with Matthew and his daughter, Sarah, to tend the horses. We were allowed access to the pasture and spent about 30 minutes enjoying and photographing the scissor-tail in the drizzle.

On 26 April, I returned to the pasture, but did not see the bird from the roadside. On 28 April, I returned again



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, De Kalb Co., 25 April 1995.

Photo by Terese Dudek.

with Anita Almeda and the flycatcher was sitting on the barbed wire fence within 10 meters of the spot it occupied the previous Tuesday. Other area birders also saw the flycatcher during this week.

This bird may have been an over-migrant as Bohlen (1989) suggested. In Illinois, this species is considered a rare vagrant from the southwestern plains. The species is expanding its range north and east, with nesting documented in Tennessee, north central Missouri, and Iowa. Northern Illinois records include Winnebago County (1986) and Winnetka (1987) (Bohlen 1989).

Literature Cited

Bohlen, H.D. 1989. *The Birds of Illinois*. Indiana University Press. Bloomington, IN.

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58 Winter Wrens at Jackson Park, Cook County

An unprecedented fall-out of Winter Wrens (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) took place on 23 April 1995, when a tally of 58 individuals was recorded in Jackson Park on Chicago's lake front. Previous spring high counts for Illinois have apparently not exceeded 20 birds (Mlodinow 1984, Bohlen 1989).

This heavy wren passage occurred amid a notably dull spring migration, during which only one species of warbler was recorded through 23 April. Only one spring migrant, a Marsh Wren, appeared during the 20 to 23 April period. Temperatures during this time remained below normal, especially along Chicago's lake front. Moderate winds on 23 April were from the northeast.

In all, my survey of Wooded Island in Jackson Park yielded 15 individual Winter Wrens. South of the golf course, located at the southern end of Wooded Island, I checked a tangle of thickets favored by these wrens and found six birds all visible on the same pile of wood chips. I found an additional seven more birds in the thickets at this site.

Groups of two or three birds were found at other locations within Jackson Park. I was careful to check many sites twice and came up with identical numbers of

Meadowlark

individuals at each site.

After finding a LeConte's Sparrow, I retired for lunch. By that time, I personally logged 48 Winter Wrens! I called Tom Jackman to tell him about the birds and he also checked Wooded Island. In addition to the areas I checked, he surveyed some new spots and came up with an additional 24 more Winter Wrens. Our combined total for the day was 58 Winter Wrens. Curiously, none were singing.

Tom Jackman and I took great care in comparing our sightings to avoid double-counting Winter Wrens. Our total of 58 birds is probably conservative, with the actual number being much higher. The Winter Wren is an elusive species, of course, and we did not assume that our tentative total of 74 birds (including the iffy double-counted birds) represented all the individuals present in the park on this day.

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Bohlen, H.D. 1989. *The Birds of Illinois*. Indiana University Press. Bloomington, IN.

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Nine Pine Warblers at Jackson Park, Cook County

A surprisingly large tally of nine Pine Warblers (*Dendroica pinus*) in Jackson Park was obtained on the 1995 Spring Bird County on 6 May 1995. The birds were observed by Paul Clyne, Keith Barker, and Robert Harnish. Other single party counts for Pine Warblers that I know of for the Chicago area have not exceeded five individuals (Mlodinow 1984).

Our party found two males at 67th Street and South Coast Guard Drive at the extreme southern end of Jackson Park. Less than half a block west were three males and one female foraging on the ground. I left the other two members of the party as they kept a watch on the flock of four while I returned to the first site to locate the first two males. Thus, six Pine Warblers were seen simultaneously.

Later that morning we arrived at Wooded Island and learned that two male Pine Warblers were seen near two different street lamps. My party found both individuals. That afternoon, I located another male Pine Warbler at 58th Street and Stony Island Avenue.

Literature Cited

Mlodinow, S. 1984. *Chicago Area Birds*. Chicago River Press. Chicago, IL.

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Swainson's Warbler in Busey Woods, Champaign County

On 28 May 1995, I arrived early for the last of our Audubon Society's weekly spring Busey Woods Bird Walks. Since I help lead the walks, I decided to run a short scouting trip. It was immediately evident that although it was late in May, there were still many spring migrants around, including a Mourning Warbler at the parking lot.

As I started across a small suspension bridge that leads from the parking lot to the woods, I noticed a warbler-like bird skulking low, foraging in the dense shrubs along the river bank. The bird was somewhat like an *Oporornis*, but it showed no yellow and seemed to have a brownish cast.

Then, as luck would have it, the bird flew up to a railing on the bridge, just a few feet in front of me. It hopped to the next bridge railing and then to an open branch, before resuming its foraging in the denser shrubbery. It was immediately clear that the bird was not a Worm-eating Warbler. Although, its pattern was reminiscent of a Warbling Vireo or a Tennessee Warbler, it was quite different from either.

The warbler-like bill was clearly larger than that of a Tennessee Warbler's. The bird had a brown cap, thin eyeline, gray-brown back, and whitish underparts. Most distinctive were the pink legs, which are not characteristic of either the Warbling Vireo or the Tennessee Warbler.

I realized I was looking at a bird I hadn't seen for a long time - a Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*) - which formerly occurred annually in southern Illinois. This species may be extirpated from Illinois. Interestingly, this bird was not the first record of the Swainson's Warbler in Busey Woods; one was seen in 1985 (Bohlen, 1989).

Literature Cited

Bohlen, H.D. 1989. *The Birds of Illinois*. Indiana University Press. Bloomington, IN.

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Field Notes



Little Blue Heron drawing by Brian K. Willis.

The 1995 SPRING SEASON

by Robert Chapel

March was warmer and drier than normal statewide, while April and early May were cooler and wetter than normal. Consequently, migration, which started slightly ahead of schedule, seemingly stalled after mid-April. While waterfowl and early landbird migrants arrived in normal numbers and on time or even ahead of schedule, comparatively little neotropical migration had occurred by the time of the Spring Bird Count. Several count observers commented on the paucity of warblers and the surplus of lingering waterfowl. Shorebirds were generally hard to find, but there were good numbers at a few select areas.

Easily overlooked, but ornithologically significant were the record early arrival dates for 18 species. These dates occurred during 17 March to 22 April with half of the record dates falling between 9-18 April. This list included eight warbler, three shorebird, and two swallow species. Despite the few individuals that arrived so early, there were no noticeable concentrations of these species or passerines until later.

After approximately mid-April, neotropical migrants arrived late even in spectacular numbers statewide during the 8-10 May period. 9 May was the peak date in many areas. There continued to be good numbers of warblers, vireos, thrushes, flycatchers, and other later migrants into the last week of May, some even well into June. Although there were some spectacular days for observers, the total number of birds seen during migration was probably normal or even below normal.

Birding seemed somewhat dull until the mid-May onslaught of migrants when some interesting birds stirred interest. The most cooperative bird was an **Anhinga**, seen at McKee Marsh by many observers for a week. At least two flyby **Anhingas** were observed at Jackson Park during the same period. Other cooperative birds included

the season's only Red-necked Grebe, a breeding-plumaged adult, seen at a pond adjacent to a major shopping mall in Champaign for three days; a **White-faced Ibis** seen by many observers during its stay at Goose Lake Prairie; the winter Gyrfalcon at Clinton Lake that lingered until March 5; and a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher that spent a week in De Kalb County.

The most exciting bird of the season was a **White-tailed Kite** seen briefly in Springfield. Unfortunately it could not be relocated. Other highlights included huge flocks of American White Pelicans in southern and western Illinois; a **Neotropical Cormorant** at Riverdale; two Cinnamon Teals and an out-of range Swainson's Hawk near Havana and even one in Lake County; many Yellow Rails in central Illinois, a Black Rail in Henderson County; an **Arctic Tern** at Braidwood, numerous Black-throated Blue Warblers downstate (unusual in spring), a Swainson's Warbler in Urbana; good numbers of the *Oporornis* warblers down-state, and many Harris' Sparrows statewide.

Please note, all breeding records will be reported in the 1995 Breeding Season Report. A special thanks is extended to all contributors to this report, who are listed here in full and by initials following each observation:

Cindy Alberico, Renee Baade (RBa), Keith Barker, Michael Baum (MBa), Bill Bertrand, Laurence Binford, Richard Biss, Dave Bohlen, Ron Bradley, Alan Branhagan (ABr), Arlene Brei, Karin Cassel, Robert Chapel, Elizabeth Chato, Paul Clyne, Dave Cooper, Robert Danley, Myrna Deaton, Judy DeNeal, Sheryl DeVore, Jeff Donaldson (JDo); Teresa Dudek, Ralph Eiseman, Josh Engel, Carol Fields, Todd Fink, Darlene Fisk, Ronald Flemal, Jim Frazier, Urs Geiser, Brad Grover, Philip Haebler, Marybeth Hallett (MHa), Jim Hampson, Robert Harnish (RHh), John Harshman (JHa), Scott Hickman, Kanai Hirabayashi, Margaret Hoefer (MHR), Roger Hotham (RHo), Robert Hughes,

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Common Loon, one of 19 present on Long Lake, Lake Co., 10 April 1995. Photo by David B. Johnson.

1995 Spring Highlights

Common Loon

EA: 6 Mar., CONWR ((KM); 14 Mar. (ad.), Sang.L (DB); 26 Mar., McHenry Co (DF); 26 Mar., Chi (JL). MC: 13, Spfld, 3 Apr. (DB); 10, Evanston, 4 May (EW). LD: 30 May (ad.), UCCA (TF); 29 May, Lincoln (PP).

Pied-billed Grebe

EA: 5 Mar., Lisle (fide JF). MC: 55, Spfld, 8 Apr. (DB); 52,

Decatur, 8 Apr. (MD); 25, Mernett L, 1 Apr. (KM).

Horned Grebe

EA: 26 Feb., Spfld (DB); 26 Feb., LCal (WM). MC: 33, Spfld, 31 Mar. (DB). LD: 9 May, HLCA (TF et al.); 6 May (ad.), Spfld (DB); 6 May, Evanston (EW,JE).

As a printing aide, the following abbreviations have been used throughout this report:

EA = Earliest Arrival(s) MC = Maximum Count(s) LD = Latest Departures(s)

Carl.L	=	Carlyle Lake (Clinton & Bond Cos)	LChau	=	Lake Chatauqua NWR (Mason Co)
CBG	=	Chicago Botanic Garden (Glencoe, Cook Co)	LCNP	=	La Salle County Nuclear Plant (La Salle Co)
Chi	=	Chicago's Lakefront Parks, excluding JP (Cook Co)	LRen	=	Lake Renwick (Will Co)
Clin.L	=	Clinton Lake (De Witt Co)	LShel	=	Lake Shelbyville (Moultrie and Shelby Cos)
CONWR	=	Crab Orchard NWR (Williamson Co)	M.Arb	=	Morton Arboretum (Du Page Co)
CNC	=	Crabtree NC (Cook Co)	MFWA	=	Middlefork FWA (Vermilion Co)
Fermi	=	FermiLab (Du Page Co)	MM	=	McKee Marsh (Du Page Co)
FWMA	=	Fishhook Wildlife Management Area (Moultrie Co.)	MS	=	McGinnis Slough (Cook Co)
GLPSP	=	Goose Lake Prairie SP (Grundy Co) & Heidecke L	MTnw.R	=	Mark Twain NWR (Calhoun Co)
HLCA	=	Horseshoe Lake CA (Madison Co)	Palos	=	Palos Forest Preserve inc. Saganashkee Slough (Cook Co)
IBSP	=	Illinois Beach SP (Lake Co)	Rend L	=	Rend Lake (Franklin & Jefferson Cos)
JP	=	Chicago's Jackson Park (Cook Co)	RLCA	=	Rice Lake CA (Fulton Co)
KCP	=	Kennekuk County Park (Vermilion Co)	SRSF	=	Sand Ridge SF(Mason Co)
KFWA	=	Kaskaskia FWA (Moultrie Co)	Sang.L	=	Sangchris Lake SP (Sangamon and Christian Cos)
LCal	=	Lake Calumet & vicinity (Cook Co)	Spfld	=	Springfield (Sangamon Co)
			UCCA	=	Union County CA (Union Co)
			Wauk	=	Waukegan (Lake Co)

ad.	=	adult	pr.	=	pair	resp.	=	respectively
Co (s)	=	County (ies)	L	=	Lake	N.W.R.	=	National Wildlife Refuge
subad.	=	subadult	*	=	documented record	m.ob.	=	many observers
C.A.	=	Conservation Area	N.C.	=	Nature Center	S.F.	=	State Forest
imm.	=	imm.	**	=	specimen record	est.	=	estimated
F.P.	=	Forest Preserve	N.P.	=	Nature Preserve	S.P.	=	State Park
yg.	=	young						
F.W.A.	=	Fish and Wildlife Area						

I.O.R.C. = Illinois Ornithological Records Committee

A number in parentheses () indicates the number of birds observed at a particular location or on a particular date. No number signifies single birds. Dates, counts or sites undrelined and bolded represent very early/late dates or counts unprecedented or extremely significant for the state or that region.

Red-necked Grebe

6-8 May, Champaign (*EC,*RC, m.ob.). First Champaign Co record. See seasonal highlights.

Eared Grebe

EA: 3 Mar., HLCA (KM); 27 Mar.-25 Apr., CNC (*RS,*CW,AS,m.ob.). MC: 3 (ad.), Spfld, 14 Apr. (DB). LD: 4 May, Union Co. (TF et al.). Others: 1 Apr., Diamond L (Lake Co) (fide JF); 2 Apr. (2), Decatur (MD); 29 Apr., Spoon L (Knox Co) (MBa).

American White Pelican

EA: 18 Mar. (40), UCCA (RD). MC: **650+**, UCCA, 2 Apr. (RD); 285, Henderson Co (3 sites), 21 Apr. (LM); 200, Pere Marquette S.P., 6 Apr. (DS); 150, Mercer Co, 27 Apr. (PP). LD: 29 May (6), Johnson Co (TF); 23 May, Baker's L (Cook Co) (AS); 11 May (15), Carroll Co (PP). Others: 31 Mar. (135), Carl L (Fayette Co) (KM); 26-28 Apr. (11), Aurora (fide JF); 29 Apr., Palos (WS); 29-30 Apr., LCal (WM) — Population explosion of the last several years continues. Is breeding imminent?

Double-crested Cormorant

EA: 11 Mar. (3), LRen (JM). MC: **1010**, Spoon L (Knox Co), 29 April (MBa); 1000, Jefferson Co, 9 Apr. (TF).

NEOTROPICAL CORMORANT

20 May, Riverdale quarry (Cook Co) (*RH,Job,DM,SP). 5th state record.

ANHINGA

21-29 Apr. (female), MM (BS,*RF,*m.ob.); 28 Apr. (2), JP (*PC). Fourth & fifth IL spring records and first records ever for n. IL See seasonal highlights.

American Bittern

EA: 10 Apr. (3), Spfld (DB); 13 Apr. (2), Lockport Prairie (CA). MC: 4, GLPSP, 15 May (CA). Others: 14 May, Chi (EW—photo).

Least Bittern

EA: 19 Apr. (2), Massac Co (TF); 23 Apr., Spfld. (DB); 23 Apr., MM (MD, JL). MC: 3, Mermet L (Massac Co), 9 May (KM, TF, m.ob.). LD: 27 May, KCP (RC). Others: 19 May, Chi (KHi, EW); 12 May, Chi (EW-photos).

Great Blue Heron

EA: 19 Feb. (2), Du Page Co (JSu); 22 Feb., Spfld (DB). MC: 120, Barrington, 19 Mar. (JSa); 50, Monroe Co, 15 May (KM); 14, Spfld, 31 May (DB).

Great Egret

EA: 18 Mar., LCal (JL). MC: 75, LCal, 25 Apr. (WM). LD: 29 May, Decatur (MD).

Snowy Egret

MC: 3 Apr., Spfld. (DB). MC: 11, Union Co, 18 Apr. (TF). LD: 25 May, Spfld (DB). Others: 29 Apr. (ad.), Wataga (MBa)—1st Knox Co record; 20 May, LCal (AS).

Little Blue Heron

EA: 3 Apr., Oakwood Bottoms (Jackson Co) (KM); 15 Apr., Sang.L (DB, MD). MC: 30, Saint Clair Co, 15 Apr. (TF); 3 (imm.), Decatur, 19 Apr. (MD). LD: 17 May (ad.), Skokie Lagoons F.P. (Cook Co) (JSa); 9 May (ad.), Spfld (DB).

Cattle Egret

EA: 3 Apr., Jackson Co (KM); 9 Apr., Decatur (MD). MC: 150, Sauget (St. Clair Co), 22 Apr. (KM, DK); 15, LRen, 6 May (JM). LD: 31 May (2), Spfld (DB).

Green Heron

EA: 11 Apr., Pomona (Jackson Co) (KM); 11 Apr., Franklin Co (LS); 15 Apr., Clin.L (RC); 19 Apr. (2), near MM (MS); 19 Apr., JP (PC). MC: 6, JP, 17 May (PC).

Black-crowned Night-Heron

EA: 28 Mar. (14), LCal (WM). MC: 1066, LCal, 29 Mar. (WM). LD: 6 May, Champaign Co (EC). Others: 7 May (erythristic ad.), LCal (WM).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

EA: 22 Apr. (3), Sauget (St. Clair Co) (KM, DK). LD: 3 May, Evanston (JKo).

WHITE-FACED IBIS

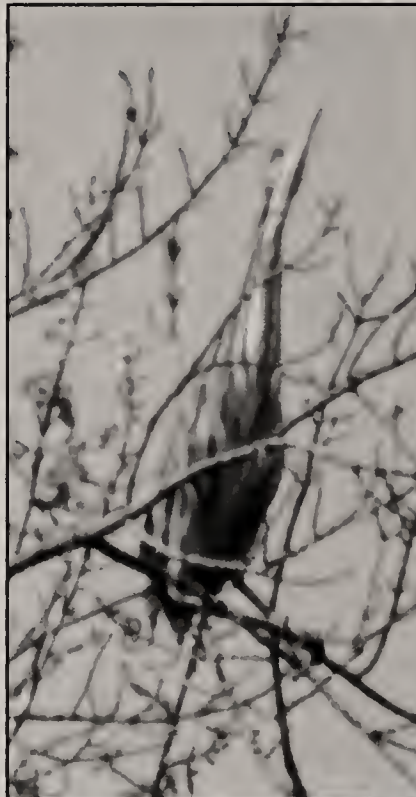
15-17 May, GLPSP (*CA, JM-ph.). 13th spring IL record, see seasonal highlights.

Tundra Swan

EA: 26 Feb. (2), West Chicago (MS). MC: 4, Cypress Creek N.W.R., 6 Mar. (KM). LD: 26 Apr., CBG (LB). Others: 16 Mar. (3), near M.Arb (RSm). Swan species EA: 18 Feb. (2), JP (PC).

Mute Swan

EA: 21 Feb., St. Clair Co (KM); 25 Feb., Clin.L (RC). MC: 42, LCal, 25 Feb. (JL)—most or all were from Wolf L population spreading out.



American Bittern perched 60 feet high in Lincoln Park Bird Sanctuary, Cook Co., 14 May 1995. Photo by Eric Walters.



Least Bittern, Montrose Harbor Magic Hedge, Cook Co., 12 May 1995. Photo by Eric Walters.

Greater White-fronted Goose

EA: 31 Jan., Spfld (DB); 3 Mar., Rock Cut S.P. (BG). MC: 117, Franklin Co, 6 Mar. (LS); 106, Spfld, 2 Mar. (DB); 100, Clin.L, 4 Mar. (MD); 59, LCNP, 13 Mar. (CMc, JMc). LD: **14-15 May**, JP (*PC) see seasonal highlights; 22 Mar., Union Co (9) (TF). Others: 7-13 Mar. (2), Fermi (PK); 11 Mar., Glen Ellyn (fide JF); 11-12 Mar., Shabbona (fide JF).

Snow Goose

EA: 17 Feb. (2, white), Sang.L (DB). MC: 600, Sangamon Co, 4 Mar. (DB); 300, ne. Winnebago



*Two Ross' Geese at Chicago Botanic Garden, Cook County's first record. 20 March 1995.
Photo by Eric Walters.*



Adult Black-crowned Night Heron, Lake Renwick, Will Co., May 1995. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.

Co, 10 Mar. (JDo); 100, UCCA, 6 Mar. (KM). LD: **19 May**, St. Clair Co (KM); 26 Apr., Dragon L F.P. (Du Page Co) (JSu).

Ross' Goose

EA: 6-12 Mar., Franklin Co (LS); 7-9 Mar., Fermi (PK,m.ob.). MC: **13**, Durand (Winnebago Co- see seasonal highlights), 8-16 Mar. (BG, m.ob.); 7, Buffalo (Sangamon Co), 4 Mar. (DB); **4**, Fermi, 13 Mar. (PK). LD: 18-20 Mar. (2 ad.), **CBG** (*LB, EW—photos) - first Cook Co record.

Canada Goose

EA: 17 Feb. (influx), Spoon L (Knox Co) (MBa). MC: 20,000, ne. Winnebago Co, 10 Mar. (JDo).

Wood Duck

EA: 18 Feb., Spfld (DB); 23 Feb., JP (HR). MC: 23, Spfld, 1 Apr. (DB); 22, Union Co, 6 May (TF).

Green-winged Teal

EA: 18 Feb., Sangamon Co (DB); 18 Feb. (4), Urbana (RC); 2 Mar. (9), Du Page Co (JSu). MC: 1,200+, Clin.L, 12 Apr. (RC). LD: 3 Jun., Decatur (MD); 20 May, LRen (CF).

American Black Duck

EA: 19 Feb. (60), Fermi (JSu). LD: 9 Apr., Jefferson Co (TF).

Mallard

EA: 18 Feb. (67), JP (PC). MC: 10,000, Clin.L, 4-5 Mar. (MD, m.ob).

Northern Pintail

EA: 15 Feb., Sangamon Co (DB); 19 Feb., Du Page Co (JSu). MC: 430, Pulaski Co., 6 Mar. (KM). LD: 6 May (male), Decatur (MD). Others: 15, Fermi, 11 Mar. (PK).



*Cattle Egret, Springfield, IL, 2 May 1995.
Photo by Dennis Oehmke.*

Blue-winged Teal

EA: 9 Mar. (2), Charleston (BH); 12 Mar., Dragon L F P (JSu); 13 Mar. (12), Boone Co (AB). MC: 1,000+, Clin.L, 12 Apr. (RC); 300, Pulaski Co, 13 Apr. (TF). LD: 4 June (male), Arcola (RC).

Cinnamon Teal

EA: 11-13 Apr. (male), **Spfld** (DB). LD: 25 Apr., **Dragon L F.P.** (Du Page Co) (JSu).

Northern Shoveler

EA: 18 Feb., Clin.L (RC); 12 Mar., (12), Du Page Co (JSu); 12 Mar. (13), JP (PC); 12 Mar. (6), Boone Co (AB). MC: 470, HLCA, 22 Mar. (KM); 200+, MS, 7 Apr. (WS); 200, Spfld, 26 Mar. (DB). LD: 3 June (male), Decatur (MD); 14 May, Fermi (PK).

Gadwall

EA: 18 Feb., Clin.L (RC); 19 Feb. (2), Du Page Co (JSu). MC: 225, HLCA, 4 Mar. (KM); 120, Joliet, 24 Feb. (JM); 110, Spfld, 20 Mar. (DB). LD: 21 May (pr.), LCal (WM); 6 May, Spfld (DB).

American Wigeon

EA: 18 Feb., Spfld (DB); 19 Feb. (2), Du Page Co (JSu). MC: 110, Pulaski Co, 6 Mar. (KM); 50, Spfld, 8 Apr. (DB). LD: 9 May (4), Rend L (TF et al.).

Canvasback

EA: 19 Feb., Mahomet (RC); 24 Feb. (7), Joliet (JM). MC: 70, Pulaski Co, 6 Mar. (KM); 20, Spfld, 20 Mar. (DB). LD: 9 May (female), Rend L (TF et al.).

Redhead

EA: 30 Jan., Spfld (DB); 3 Mar., Lake Forest (EW). MC: 70, HLCA, 11 Mar. (KM); 31, Spfld, 8 Mar. (DB). LD: 4 May (male), JP (DM); 21 Apr. (2 females), Buckhart (Sangamon Co) (DB).

Ring-necked Duck

EA: 18 Feb., Clin.L (RC); 19 Feb. (3), Du Page Co (JSu). MC: 175, Pulaski Co, 6 Mar. (KM); 165, LCal, 22 Mar. (EW); 75, Spfld, 20 Mar. (DB). LD: 7 June, McHenry Co (DF); 9 May, Rend L (TF et al.).

Greater Scaup MC: 705, Evanston, 6 Apr. (EW); 150, JP, 12 Mar. (HR); (downstate MC) 6, Spfld, 1 Mar. (DB). LD: 29 May, Decatur (MD).

Lesser Scaup EA: 30 Jan. Spfld (DB); 18 Feb. (18), JP (PC). MC: 2700, Spfld, 4 Mar. (DB); 2400, Jersey Co, 8 Mar. (KM). LD: 3 June (3), Decatur (MD); 23 May (3), JP (TJ); 23 May, Monroe Co (KM).

Harlequin Duck

EA: 15 Feb.-9 Mar. (ad. male, female), JP (PC, TJ,m.ob.—photos).

Oldsquaw

EA: 22 Feb. (female), Spfld (DB); 2 Mar. (2 ad.), CONWR (RD). LD: 29 Mar. (female, same as EA), Spfld (RF). Others: 17 Mar., Spoon L (Knox Co) (MBa).

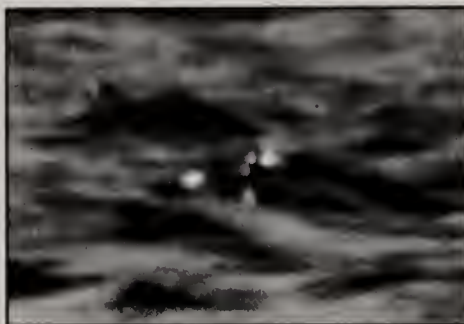
Black Scoter

EA: 11 Apr. (male), Spfld (DB).

Surf Scoter

EA: 18 Feb. - 4 Mar., Spfld (DB); 14-18 Apr., Carbondale (RD,

KM, TF). MC: 5, Spfld, 23 Feb. (DB). LD: 5 May, Mendota (La Salle Co) (*JH, JK). Others: 10 Apr., **near M.Arb** (RSm,JF) - first Du Page Co record; 17 Apr. (male), Decatur (MD); 27 Apr. (breeding plumage), CONWR (RD); 28 Apr.-5 May (female), **Fermi** (*UG,m.ob.—photos) - second Du Page Co record.



Male Harlequin Duck, Heidecke Lake, Grundy Co., 25 March 1994. First Grundy County record, observed on 16,23, and 25 March. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich.



Female Surf Scoter, Fermilab, DuPage Co., one of first DuPage County records recorded in spring 1995. 5 May 1995. Photo by Eric Walters.

White-winged Scoter

LD: **5 May**, Mendota (La Salle Co) (*JH, JK). Others: 13 & 22 Apr., L Storey (Knox Co) (AR, PR, MBa)

Common Goldeneye

MC: 232, JP, 20 Feb. (PC); 200, Spfld, 9 Mar. (DB). LD: 31 May (female), IBSP (AS); 1 Apr. (female), Spfld (DB); 22 Mar., HLCA (KM).

Bufflehead

EA: 5 Feb., Fermi (PK); 15 Feb. (4), JI (HR). MC: 86, Spfld, 20 Mar. (DB); 69 CBG, 9 Apr. (JSa). LD: 10 May, CBG (LB); 9 May, Madison (TF et al.); 9 May (3), Decatur (MD).

Hooded Merganser

EA: 19 Feb., Mahomet (RC); 23 Feb. (4), JP (HR). MC: 36, HLCA, 4 Mar. (KM); 14, se. Du Page Co, 4 Mar. (fide JF).

Common Merganser

MC: 720, HLCA, 14 Feb. (KM); 260, LCal, 4 Mar. (WM). LD: 26 Mar., Chi (JL); 20 Mar. (2 females), Spfld (DB). Others: 200, Greene Valley F.P., 6 Mar. (fide JF).

Red-breasted Merganser

EA: 20 Feb., JP (47) (PC). MC: 3130, ne. Chi, 19 Apr. (EW); 300, Decatur, 3 Apr. (MD); 260, Rend L, 18 Mar. (RD). LD: 21 May, Wolf L (Cook Co) (WM); 19 May, Rend L (TF); 19 May, Spfld (DB). Others: 500, Palos, 5 Apr. (m.ob.).

Ruddy Duck

EA: 12 Feb., Riverdale (JL). MC: 900, HLCA, 22 Mar. (KM); 270+, MS, 16 Apr. (WS); 100, Spfld, 22 Mar. (DB). LD: 30 May (male, female), Spfld (DB); 25 May, (2 male, 1 female), Riverdale (WM).

Black Vulture

EA: 26 Feb. (4), Johnson Co (KM). MC: 6, Mermet L (Massac Co), 25 Mar. (KM).

Turkey Vulture

EA: 31 Jan. (3), Johnson Co (KM); 18 Feb., Spfld (DB); 12 Mar. (2), Du Page Co (fide JF). MC: 30+, Washington Co, 20 Feb. (KM); 20+, Danville, 26 Feb. (RC). LD: 29 May, JP (PC).

Osprey

EA: 29 Mar., Sang.L (DB); 8 Apr., Naperville (fide JF). MC: 4, Palos, 29 Apr. (WS). LD: 29 May, IBSP (JP); 20 May, Spfld (DB).

WHITE-TAILED KITE

21 Apr., Spfld (Washington Park) (*DB). 2nd State Record. See seasonal highlights.

Mississippi Kite

EA: 9 May (2), Union Co & (1), Pomona (Jackson Co) (TF et al.). MC: 7, UCCA, 18 May (TF).



*Sora at Montrose Harbor, Cook Co., 7 May 1995.
Photo by Eric Walters.*

Bald Eagle

MC: 8, Jersey Co, 8 Mar. (KM). LD: 23 May (imm.), Monroe Co (KM); 20 May, nc. Lake Co (RH, JOB, DM). Others: 11 Mar., KCP (JS); 19 Mar. (2nd-3rd yr), LCal (WM); 20 Mar. (ad.), Baker's L (Cook Co) (CF); 22 Mar., Downers Grove (fide JF); 22 Apr. (imm.), Clin.L (RC).

Northern Harrier

EA: 1 Feb., Spfld (DB). MC: 6, Spfld, 11 Mar. (DB). LD: 13 Apr., M.Arb (fide JF).

Sharp-shinned Hawk

EA: 21 Feb., Spfld (DB); 6 Mar., Palatine (CF). MC: 5, Palos, 29 Apr. (WS). LD: 24 May, McHenry Co (RBa); 20 May, Spoon L (Knox Co) (MBa).

Cooper's Hawk

EA: 11 Mar. (2), Palos (JL). MC: 3, Pine Hills (Union Co), 1 Apr. (KM). LD: 29 May, Urbana (RC et al.).

Northern Goshawk

EA: 3 Mar. (imm.), Saline Co (JD); 4 Mar. (ad.), UCCA (RD); 5 Mar., Freeport (*MHR-ph., m.ob.). LD: 6 May (male), Homer L (Champaign Co) (*Ga, *MHa); 1 May (ad.), Du Page Co (TF). Others: 12 Mar. (imm.), Chi (RE); 19 Mar. (ad.), Rock Cut S.P. (Winnebago Co) (BG); 23 Apr., Boone Co (AB).

Red-shouldered Hawk

EA: 10 Mar., West Chicago (MS). MC: 5, Clinton Co., 6 May (KM). LD: 21 May (2), Urbana (RC, GL). Others: 29 Apr., Waterman (De Kalb Co) (RF et al.).

Broad-winged Hawk

EA: 7 Apr. (10), West Union (Clark Co) (MD); 7 Apr., Pope Co (TF); 17 Apr., Brookfield (Zoo) (fide JF); 19 Apr., West Chicago (MS). MC: 39, Palos, 29 Apr. (WS); 25, Spfld, 26 Apr. (DB). LD: 29 May, Urbana (RC).

Swainson's Hawk

EA: 6 May, Havana (GW, RSa, m.ob.). LD: 20 May, nc. Lake Co (RH et al.).

Red-tailed Hawk

EA: 18 Feb., Spfld (DB); 22 Feb. (2), JP (PC). MC: 21, Spfld, 4 & 18 Mar. (DB); 17, Union Co (KM et al.). LD: 21 May, JP (PC). Others: 11 Mar. (ad. Harlan's), UCCA (RD); 19 Mar. (Harlan's), Spfld (DB).

Rough-legged Hawk

LD: 26 Apr. (light morph), CBG (LB).

Golden Eagle

EA: 11 Mar. (ad.), UCCA (RD). LD: 4 Apr. (subad.), Williamson Co (JD); 1 Apr. (ad.), Urbana (RC).

American Kestrel

MC: 13, Randolph Co, 6 Mar. (KM); 7, Spfld, 18 Mar. & 1 Apr. (DB); 6, Du Page Co, 12 Mar. (JSu).

Merlin

EA: 1 Apr., Spfld (DB). LD: 14 May, Wadsworth (SH); 27 Apr., Fermi (PK); 26 Apr., Spfld (DB). Others: in addition, 1 south, 4 central, 5 north.

Peregrine Falcon

EA: 12 Apr., Fermi (PK); 19 Apr., CBG (LB). MC: 2, Cypress Creek N.W.R. (Pulaski Co), 4 May (KM et al.). LD: 20 May, Homer (JS); 18 May, Urbana (RC); 9 May, HLCA (JD et al.). Others: in addition, 1 south, 2 central, 1 north.

GYRFALCON

25 Feb. - 5 Mar. (imm. gray phase, Clin.L (De Witt Co) (*RC, m.ob.)

Ring-necked Pheasant

MC: 14, Dragon L F.P. (Du Page Co), 7 May (JSu).

Wild Turkey

MC: 30, Spoon L (Knox Co) 28 Feb. (MBa); 16, Sang.L, 2 Mar. (DB).

Northern Bobwhite

MC: 18, Sangamon Co, 22 May (DB).

Yellow Rail

EA: 25 Mar., Clin.L (wet field) (RC); 26 Mar., Clin.L (Dam Marsh) (MD). MC: 2, Clin.L (Dam Marsh), 15 Apr. (RC). LD: 2 May, Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co) (RC). Others: 12 Apr. (RC), 16 Apr. (MD), & 22 Apr. (RC), all at Clin.L (Dam Marsh). — Good year at Clin.L.

Black Rail

EA: 9 May, Bald Bluff (Henderson Co) (PP)

King Rail

EA: 14 Apr., Cypress Creek N.W.R. (KM, m.ob.). LD: 26 May, McHenry Co (DF); 6 May, Swan L (Mercer Co) (PP); 4 May, Pulaski Co (TF et al.). Others: 3 May, Harrisburg (JD).

Virginia Rail

EA: 11 Apr., Spfld (DB); 14 Apr., nc. Du Page Co (fide JF). LD: 15 May (2), JP (JHa).

Sora

EA: 28 Mar., Spfld (DB); 19 Apr., nw. Du Page Co (JP). MC: 50, Arcola, 28 Apr. (MD); 20, nw. Will Co, 6 May (JM); 15, Pulaski, 18 Apr. (TF et al.).

Common Moorhen

EA: 19 Apr., Massac Co (TF); 22 Apr., LCal (fide EW); 23 Apr., MM (m.ob.). MC: 21, LCal, 6 May (WM); 3, Mermet L (Massac Co), 9 May (TF et al). LD: 29 May, Harrisburg (JD); 13 May, Eola (fide JF). Overwintering bird: 5 Mar. (2), LCal (WM).

American Coot

EA: 19 Feb., Du Page Co (JSu). MC: 2300, HLCA, 30 Mar. (KM); 2000, Decatur, 3 Apr. (MD); 1030, LCal, 16 Apr. (WM).

Sandhill Crane

EA: 28 Feb. (16), Charleston (RB); 2 Mar., Elburn (Kane Co) (RF). MC: 730, s. Du Page Co, 24 Mar. (m.ob.); 343, s. Du Page Co, 17 Mar. (m.ob.). LD: 27 May, Starved Rock S.P. (JH); 19 May (ad. & 1st yr.), GLPSP (RC); 1 May (ad.), Sang.L (DB).



Great Black-backed Gull, first summer plumage, Gillson Park, Cook Co., 19 May 1995. Note the all-white head and thick, black bill. Photo by Eric Walters.



Glaucous Gull, first summer plumage, Evanston/Chicago border, Cook Co., 6 May 1995. Photo by Eric Walters.

Co) (DB); 21 Mar. Kane Co (RF). MC: 600, Pulaski Co, 13 Apr. (TF); 300+, nw. Will Co, 6 May (JM). LD: 29 May, Decatur (MD); 18 May (2), Franklin Co (LS).

Solitary Sandpiper

EA: **24 Mar.**, Homer (JS); 15 Apr., M.Arb (fide JF). MC: 22, Carbondale, 22 Apr. (RD); 21, LCal, 6 May (WM); 16, Spfld, 6 May (DB). LD: 20 May, Moraine Hills (McHenry Co) (RBa).

Willet

EA: 16 Apr. (4), UCCA (CM); 22 Apr. (2), Sang.L (DB, RC); 26-27 Apr., Wilmette (JKo, EW); 27 Apr. (2), JP (PC). MC: 8, Spfld & Sang.L, 28 Apr. (DB); 4, UCCA, 16 Apr. (CM). LD: 20-21 May, LCal (WM, AS); 8 May, Chi (EW); 5 May, Decatur (MD).

Spotted Sandpiper

EA: 10 Apr., Decatur (MD); 23 Apr., Du Page Co (fide JF). MC:

17, Sangamon Co, 14 May (DB); 16, Carbondale, 11 May (RD). LD: 1 June, JP (PC); 1 June (2), Evanston (EW).

Upland Sandpiper

EA: **2 Apr.**, Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co.) (RC, m.ob.); 27 Apr. (pr.), Glenview (fide EW). MC: 6, Joliet Arsenal, 21 May (CA); 3, Cypress Creek N.W.R., 18 Apr. (DK, KM, m.ob.).

Whimbrel

EA: 17 May, Chi (KH,EW).

Hudsonian Godwit

EA: **18 Apr.**, Cypress Creek N.W.R. (KM, m.ob.). MC: 7, Decatur, 10 May (RSa). LD: 15 May (3), Decatur (MD); 14 May, LaSalle Co (CMc, JMc). Others: 8 May (2), Decatur (MD). 29 Apr., Wataga (Knox Co) (MBa).

Marbled Godwit

EA: 24-25 Apr., Sang.L (DB).

Ruddy Turnstone

EA: 10 May, JP (TJ); 15 May, Decatur (MD). LD: 27 May, Chi (JL); 25 May, Berry (Sangamon Co) (DB).

Red Knot

EA: 26 May, **Decatur** (MD). LD: 29 May, JP (TJ).

Sanderling

EA: 27 Apr., Spfld (DB); 29 Apr., Chi (JL). MC: 19, Chi, 17 May (EW); 4, Rend L, 9 May (TF et al.); 4, Decatur, 15 May (MD). LD: 26 May (3), Evanston (EW); 16 May (2), Spfld (DB).

Semipalmated Sandpiper

EA: 29 Apr., Sang.L (DB). MC: 100, Decatur, 19 May (MD). LD: 3 June (20), Decatur (MD); 29 May, JP (PC).

Lesser Golden Plover

EA: 13 Mar., Berry (Sangamon Co) (DB). MC: 4,000+, Rantoul, 16 Apr. (RC); 210, Pulaski Co, 6 Apr. (TF). LD: 27 May, Coles Co (BH).

Semipalmated Plover

EA: 12 Apr. (4), Alexander Co (TF); 29 Apr., Sang.L (DB); 7 May, Heidecke L (fide JF). MC: 50, Decatur, 15 May (MD); 30, Pulaski Co, 9 May (TF et al.). LD: 27 May, Franklin Co (LS).

Piping Plover

EA: 6 May, Havana (RSa).

Killdeer

EA: 13 Feb., Urbana (RC); 18 Feb., JP (SM). MC: 66, Spfld, 12 Mar. (DB).

Black-necked Stilt

EA: 28 May (2 ad.), **Victoria** (Knox Co) (*MBa). LD: 30 May (female), Jackson Co (TF).

American Avocet

EA: 19 Apr., Lock & Dam 14 (Rock Island Co) (*CL, PP); 22 Apr., Chi (JSa); 22 Apr., LCal (fide EW).

Greater Yellowlegs

EA: 18 Mar., Pulaski Co (TF); 30 Mar., Decatur (MD); 31 Mar. (7), Boone Co (AB). MC: 100, Decatur, 15 Apr. (MD); 50, Pulaski Co, 13 Apr. (TF); 30, nw. Will Co, 6 May (JM). LD: 18 May, Union Co (TF); 18 May (7), Franklin Co (LS).

Lesser Yellowlegs

EA: 6 Mar., Pulaski Co (KM); 12 Mar., Buckhart (Sangamon

Western Sandpiper

EA: 29 Apr., Decatur (MD). MC: 3, Decatur, 26 May (MD).

Least Sandpiper

EA: **25 Mar.**, UCCA (RD); 15 Apr. (4), Decatur (MD); 27 Apr., JP (PC). MC: 200, Decatur, 15 May (MD); 80, Rend L. 30 Apr. (TF, RD); 47, LCal, 21 May (WM). LD: 24 May, Berry (Sangamon Co) (DB); 20 May (3), Monroe Co (KM).

White-rumped Sandpiper

EA: 3 May, Sang.L (DB). MC: **20**, Decatur, 26 May (MD). LD: 3 June (4), Decatur (MD).

Baird's Sandpiper

EA: 7 Apr., Sang.L (DB). MC: **20**, Decatur, 4 May (MD). LD: 14 May, New Milford (Winnebago Co) (BG); 8 May, Franklin Co (LS). Highest spring counts ever for IL.

Pectoral Sandpiper

EA: 15 Mar. (2), Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co) (RC); 15 Mar. (14), Clinton Co (MSe); 25 Mar., LRen (fide JF). MC: 1,200, Decatur, 1 Apr. (MD); 400, Pulaski Co, 13 Apr. (TF). LD: 4 June, Arcola (RC).

Dunlin

EA: 25 Mar. Sang.L (DB). MC: 100, Garden Prairie Slough (Boone Co), 15 May (RF); 85, Decatur, 15 May (MD). LD: 30 May, JP (KC); 29 May (13), Decatur (MD).

Stilt Sandpiper

EA: 22 Apr., Decatur (RC, MD). LD: 15 May (2), Garden Prairie Slough (Boone Co) (RF).

Ruff

EA: 1 May (Reeve), **Will Co** (*JM).

Short-billed Dowitcher

EA: 4 May (2), Sang.L (DB); 6 May, LCal (WM). MC: 30, Decatur, 15 May (MD).

Long-billed Dowitcher

EA: 21 Apr., Sang.L (DB). MC: 15, Cypress Creek N.W.R., 25 Apr. (KM); 6, Sang.L, 30 Apr. (DB). LD: 5 May, Sang.L (DB); 4 May (12), Cypress Creek N.W.R. (TF et al.).

Common Snipe

EA: 26 Feb., Pulaski Co (KM); 12 Mar., Champaign (RC); 22 Mar. (21), Kane Co (RF). MC: 80, Sang.L, 2 Apr. (DB). LD: 7 June, McHenry Co (DF); 10 May, Champaign (RC); 4 May (3), Union Co (KM et al.).

American Woodcock

EA: **27 Jan.**, Johnson Co (TF); 19 Feb., Urbana (RC); 11 Mar., Evanston (EW). MC: 24, Spoon L (Knox Co), 6 May (MBa).

Wilson's Phalarope

EA: 13 Apr. (2—ad. male & basic), Pulaski Co (TF); 27 Apr., Fermi (PK). MC: 3 (ad. male, ad. female, basic), Pulaski Co, 18-25 Apr. (TF, KM). LD: 30 May, Decatur (MD). Other: 13 May, Eola (fide JF).

Red-necked Phalarope

26 May, Decatur (MD).

Laughing Gull

EA: 6 May (ad.), Rend L (RD). LD: 24-28 May (1 ad., except 2 ad. on 26 May), South Fork Sangamon River (Sangamon Co) (DB).

Franklin's Gull

EA: 4 Apr., Decatur (MD). MC: 8 (2nd yr.), 26 May,

Spfld (DB). LD: 2 June, Decatur (MD). Others: 21 May, Jackson Co (RD).

Little Gull

13 Apr. & 14 May (same imm. bird), **Decatur** (MD).

Bonaparte's Gull

EA: 12 Mar., Decatur (MD); 24 Mar. (3), Palos (fide JF). MC: 1,300+, Boone Co, 14 Apr. (AB); 1210, Skokie Lagoons F.P. (Cook Co), 23 Apr. (LB); 600, Spfld, 3 Apr. (DB); 500, CONWR, 28 Mar. (RD). LD: 20 May (imm.), Spfld (DB).]

Ring-billed Gull

MC: 12,000+, LCal, 22 Apr. (WM); 5600, Spfld, 28 Mar. (DB); 4000, Greene Valley F.P. (Du Page Co), 18 Mar. (JSu); 1400, HLCA, 4 Mar. (KM).

Herring Gull

MC: 1000+, LCal, 12 Mar. (WM); 1000, Greene Valley F.P. (Du Page Co), 18 Mar. (JSu); 200, HLCA, 14 Feb. (KM). LD: 19 May (imm.), Spfld (DB).

Thayer's Gull

MC: 4, LCal, 4 Mar. (GW). LD: 26 Apr., CBG (LB). Others: 8 Apr. (1st winter), Chi (JL); 14 Apr. (ad.), JP (DM).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

EA: 31 Jan., Spfld (DB); 7 Mar. (ad.), Spfld (DB). LD: 28 Mar. (ad.), Spfld (DB). Others: 9 Mar., Decatur (MD); 18 & 30-31 Mar., Greene Valley F.P. (Du Page Co) (JSu & fide JF); 18 Mar., Chi (AS); 25 Mar., Chi (JL).

Glaucous Gull

MC: **10**, LCal, 4 Mar. (GW). LD: 26 May, Chi (AS). Others: 9 Mar. (ad.), Spfld (DB); 27 Mar. (2nd yr.), JP (PC); 8 Apr. (1st winter), LCal (JL); 6 May (1st summer), Evanston (EW, JE-ph).



Willet, Montrose Harbor, Cook Co., 8 May 1996.

Photo by Eric Walters.

Great Black-backed Gull

LD: **11-27 May** (1st summer), Evanston/Wilmette (EW, m.ob.—photos), but same bird also seen 10 & 14 May in Chi (m.ob.). Others: 2 Mar. (1st yr.), JP (PC).

Caspian Tern

EA: 4 Apr. (3), IBSP (AS). MC: **198**, Evanston, 11 May (EW) - **118** present there on 6 May also. LD: 10 June (6), JP (PC); 8 June, LCal (WM). Highest counts ever for Illinois.

Common Tern

EA: **19 Apr.**, JP (PC); **19 Apr.**, Chi (EW) - same as JP bird?; **22 Apr.**, Clin. L (RC). MC: 76, Spfld, 19 May (DB); 63, JP, 10 May (PC). LD: 25 May (10), Spfld (DB); 21 May (2), Chi (JL); 19 May, Rend L (TF). Earliest arrival records ever for Illinois.

ARCTIC TERN

6 May, Braidwood (Will Co) (*JM). 3rd State (and 2nd spring) record, see seasonal highlights.

Forster's Tern

EA: **6 Apr.**, JP (TJ, PC); 7 Apr., St. Charles (fide JF); 8 Apr. (2), Chi (JL). MC: 65, Jackson Co, 13 May (RD); 52, Spfld, 4 May (DB); 46, Evanston, 6 May (EW, JE). LD: 29 May, JP (PC); 25 May (imm.), Spfld (DB). Other: 29 Apr., Fermi (PK).

Least Tern

EA: 9 May, Cypress Creek N.W.R. (KM et al.). MC: 4, Jackson Co, 30 May (TF). Others: **14 May, Rockford** (Kishwaukee River) (*ABr, JD) - 5th n.IL spring record since 1900.

Black Tern

EA: 6 May (5), Riverdale (4) & LCal (Cook Co) (WM et al.); 6 May (8), Braidwood (JM); 8 May (5), Spfld (DB). MC: 120, Spfld, 15 May (DB); 100, Rockford, 14 May (ABr, JD); 98, Monroe Co, 15 May (KM); 37, JP, 14 May (PC). LD: 4 June (6), Arcola (RC); 24 May (40), Monroe Co (KM). Strong movement in Chi area on 13-14 May (m.ob.).

Mourning Dove

MC: 50, Spfld, 6 May (DB).

Black-billed Cuckoo

EA: 7 May, JP, (KB); 8 May, nw. Du Page Co (JP). LD: 31 May, JP (PC); 26 May (2), Spfld (DB).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

EA: 29 Apr., Saline Co (JD); 6 May, Spfld (DB); 15 May, Norris Woods (Kane Co) (fide JF). MC: 5, Spfld, 9 May (DB). LD: 1 June, JP (PC).

Barn Owl

Reports are confidential on request of one of the observers.

Screech Owl

MC: 5, n. Cook Co, 12 Mar. (JSa).

Great Horned Owl

MC: 6, Palos, 12 Mar. (WS).

Long-eared Owl

MC: 9, Dragon L F.P. (Du Page Co), 11 Mar. (JSu). LD: **6 May** (nesting?), Mercer Co (PP).

Short-eared Owl

MC: 13, Franklin Co, 6 Mar. (LS). LD: 26 Apr., Urbana (RC). Others: 10 Apr., near M. Arb (RSm); 19 Apr., Chi (EW); 22 Apr., LCal (fide EW).

Northern Saw-whet Owl

EA: 19 Mar., Chi (JL). LD: 29 Apr., Mattoon (fide BH—specimen, brought into Douglas-Hart Nature Center weak and exhausted and subsequently died).

Common Nighthawk

EA: 24 Apr., Williamson Co (TF); 2 May, Decatur (MD); 6 May, McHenry Co (DF). MC: 40+, Crest Hill (Will Co), 30 May (CA); 32, Spfld, 30 May (DB).

Chuck-will's-widow

EA: 19 Apr., Harrisburg (JD).

Whip-poor-will

EA: **26 Mar.**, Harrisburg (JD); 14 Apr. (male), Camp Cilca (Sangamon Co) (DB); 27 Apr. (male), JP (PC). MC: 13, Union Co, 6 May (TF). LD: 13 May (2), Chi (JL).

Chimney Swift

EA: 4 Apr., Pope Co (TF); 10 Apr., Spfld (DB); 23 Apr. (+), Cook/Du Page Co (m.ob.). MC: 500, Spfld, 29 May (DB); 240, JP, 27 May (PC); 205, Monroe Co, 18 May (KM).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

EA: **9 Apr.**, Murphysboro (RD); 25 Apr. (female), West Chicago (MS); 26 Apr. (male), Spfld (DB). MC: 11, Decatur, 21 May (MD). LD: 31 May, Downers Grove (fide JF). Earliest IL spring record.

Belted Kingfisher

EA: 10 Mar., Lisle (fide JF); 15 Mar., JP (PC).

Red-headed Woodpecker

EA: 23 Apr. (2), Skokie Lagoons F.P. (Cook Co) (LB). MC: 18, Clinton Co, 6 May (KM); 15, Palos, 1 May (WS); 8, Spfld, 26 Apr. (DB). LD: 29 May, JP (PC).

Red-bellied Woodpecker

MC: 13, Clinton Co, 6 May (KM); 11, Spfld, 23 & 29 Mar., 12 Apr., & 6 May (DB).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

EA: 9 Mar., Zeigler (Franklin Co (LS); 15 Mar. (male & female), Spfld (DB); 25 Mar. (female), JP (PC). MC: **24**, Urbana, 6 Apr. (RC); 18, Chi, 8 Apr. (CA et al.); 18, JP, 11 Apr. (KC, PC). LD: 22 May, Spoon L (Knox Co) (MBa); 20 May, JP (PC); 20 May, Homer L (Champaign Co) (HP).

Downy Woodpecker

MC: 18, Spfld, 23 Mar. (DB).

Hairy Woodpecker

MC: 6, Spfld, 29 Mar. & 30 Apr. (DB).

Northern Flicker

EA: 16 Mar., JP (PC). MC: 36, JP, 6 May (JP); 28, Urbana, 6 Apr. (RC).

Pileated Woodpecker

MC: 6, Union Co, 6 May (TF); 4, Sangamon Co, 9 May (DB).

Olive-sided Flycatcher

EA: 28 Apr., UCCA (AS); 6 May, Champaign Co (fide EC); 8 May, Harrisburg (JD); 8 May, Spfld (DB); 9 May, Wilkinson Marsh (De Kalb Co) (RF). MC: 4, Decatur, 31 May (MD). LD: 9 June, JP (PC).

Eastern Wood-Pewee

EA: 3 May, Germantown (Clinton Co) (KM); 5 May, Spfld (DB); 10 May, JP (DM). MC: 40+, Urbana & Mahomet, 28 May (RC); 32, JP, 29 May (PC). LD: 5 June (male), Chi (EW).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

EA: 11 May, Spfld (DB); 14 May (2), JP (DM, PC); 14 May, Chi (EW). MC: 16, JP, 28 May (PC); 7, Spfld, 25 May (DB). LD: 7 June (2), JP (PC).

Acadian Flycatcher

EA: 21 Apr., Union Co (TF); 28 Apr., Fox Ridge S. P. (BII et al.). MC: 8, Union Co, 6 May (TF). LD: 17 May, JP (PC).

Alder Flycatcher

EA: 15 May (male), Spfld (DB); 15 May, JP (PC); 15 May, Harrisburg (JD). MC: 7, Spfld, 18 May (DB); 7, Urbana & Mahomet, 28 May (RC). LD: 7 June (male), JP (PC).

Willow Flycatcher

EA: 9 May, Union Co (TF et al.); 10 May (4), Urbana (RC); 14 May, Chi (JL). MC: 8, Dragon L F.P., 20 May (JSu); 8, JP, 28 May (PC et al.). LD: 11 June (male), JP (PC).

Least Flycatcher

EA: 26 Apr., Spfld (DB); 26 Apr., Urbana (RC); 28 Apr., West Chicago (MS); 29 Apr., Evanston (EW). MC: 40+, Urbana, 10 May (RC); 21, JP, 10 May (PC). LD: 31 May, JP (PC).

Empidonax species EA: 13 Apr. (tentatively identified as a Least Flycatcher), Douglas-Hart Nature Center (Coles Co) (BH et al.).

Eastern Phoebe

EA: 1 Mar., Johnson Co (TF); 11 Mar., Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co) (RC); 12 Mar., Palos (CT). MC: 23, JP, 26 Mar. (PC); 17, Spfld, 23 Mar. (DB). LD: 28 Apr., Evanston (EW).

Great Crested Flycatcher

EA: 17 Apr., Union Co (KM); 26 Apr. (3), Spfld (DB); 27 Apr., JP (PC). MC: 15, Union Co, 6 May (TF); 12, Spfld, 29 May (DB).

Western Kingbird

EA: 19-22 May (2), Sauget (St. Clair Co) (TF, KM).

Eastern Kingbird

EA: 14 Apr., Union Co (KM); 21 Apr., Spfld (DB); 28 Apr. (4), M.Arb (fide EW); 28 Apr., De Kalb Co (DS). MC: 27, Union Co, 9 May (TF et al.); 20, Spfld, 18 & 21 May (DB); 14, CBG, 10 May (LB).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER

EA: 22-28 Apr., Waterman (De Kalb Co) (*TD, m.ob.). First IL spring record since 1990, see seasonal highlights.

Horned Lark

MC: 24, Sangamon Co, 18 Mar.

Purple Martin

EA: 21 Mar., Carl.L (MSe); 30 Mar. (male), Spfld (DB); 12 Apr. (female), Spfld (DB); 19 Apr., St. Charles (fide JF). MC: 39, Boone Co, 28 Apr. (AB); 25, Alexander Co, 15 May (KM); 20, Spfld, 18 May (DB).

Tree Swallow

EA: 26 Feb., Union Co (TF); 12 Mar., Clin.L (RC); 17 Mar., MM (fide JF). MC: 1000, Sang.L, 10 Apr. (DB); 750, LCal, 22 Apr. (WM); 700, UCCA, 1 May (KM). LD: 30 May, JP (KC).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

EA: 20 Mar., Pomona (Jackson Co) (KM); 28 Mar. (3), Spfld (DB); 14 Apr., (2), MM (fide JF). MC: 40, Spfld, 1 May (DB); 26, JP, 19 Apr. (PC); 25, UCCA, 1 May (KM). Earliest IL spring record.

Bank Swallow

EA: 28 Mar., Spfld (DB). MC: 300+ (at colony), Bald Bluff (Henderson Co), 10 May (MBa); 150, LCal, 6 May (WM). Earliest IL spring record.

Cliff Swallow

EA: 9 Apr. (2), Williamson Co (TF); 21 Apr. (3), Spfld (DB); 27 Apr., JP (PC). MC: 350+, Bald Bluff (Henderson Co), 10 May (MBa); 200, Spfld, 18 May (DB); 170, Monroe Co, 18 May (KM).

Barn Swallow

EA: 25 Mar., Oakwood Bottoms (Jackson Co) (KM); 31 Mar., CBG (LB); 1 Apr., Fermi (PK). MC: 100, Cook Co, 27 May (TF); 90, Spfld, 18 May (DB).

Blue Jay

EA: 26 Apr. (4), sc. Du Page Co (EW) - first flocks moving north. MC: 56, JP, 6 May (JP); 29, Spfld, 5 Mar. (DB). LD: 5 June, JP (PC).

Fish Crow

EA: 26 Feb. (7), UCCA (TF). MC: 50, Union Co, 5 May (VK).

Black-capped Chickadee

MC: 18, Spfld, 23 Mar. & 26 Apr. (DB).

Red-breasted Nuthatch

EA: 6 Mar., Pope Co (TF). MC: 13, Champaign Co (most at Homer L), 6 May (GL, m.ob.). LD: 14 May, Chi (EW).

Brown Creeper

EA: 5 Mar., Boone Co (AB); 15 Mar. (4), JP (PC). MC: 27, JP, 23 Apr. (PC). LD: 14 May, Chi (JL); 10 May, Chi (Hyde Park) (TJ); 6 May, Champaign Co (fide EC).

Carolina Wren

MC: 21, Spfld, 6 May (DB). Others (north): 15 Apr., Chi (JL); 23 Apr., Lockport (CA); 24 May, M.Arb (fide JF).

Bewick's Wren

EA: 17 Mar., Clin.L (De Witt Co) (*RC). LD: 4 May, West Du Page Woods F.P. (Du Page Co) (*MS).

House Wren

EA: 10 Apr., Urbana (RC); 22 Apr., Chi (JL). MC: 23, JP, 7 May (PC); 21, Spfld, 6 May (DB).

Winter Wren

EA: 4 Mar., Homer (JS); 18 Mar., Lockport (CA). MC: 58, JP, 23 Apr. (PC); 19, Evanston, 16 Apr. (EW); 10, Sang.L, 6 & 13 Apr. LD: 13 May, Chi (JL); 11 May, JP (PC); 10 May, Ryder's Woods F.P. (McHenry Co) (RBa); 6 May, Starved Rock S.P. (CMc, JMc); 6 May, Homer L (Champaign Co) (GL, MHa); 6 May, Decatur (MD) — many lingered late this year.

Sedge Wren

EA: 22 Apr., Sang.L (DB); 23 Apr., Dragon L F.P. (Du Page Co) (JSu); 29 Apr. (4), Chi area (m.ob.). MC: 20, Decatur, 5 May (MD); 6, Dragon L F.P. (Du Page Co), 27 May (JSu). LD: 11 June, JP (PC).

Marsh Wren

EA: 26 Mar., Clin.L (MD); 24 Apr., MM (fide JF). MC: 6, LCal, 6 May (WM). LD (south): 4 May, Union Co (TF).

Golden-crowned Kinglet

EA: 13 Mar. (2), JP (PC). MC: 40, Chi, 8 Apr. (CA et al.); 25+, Urbana, 6 Apr. (RC). LD: 6 May (2), JP (PC et al.); 6 May, Evanston (EW, JE); 25 Apr. (female), Sang.L (DB).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

EA: 20 Feb. (2) (wintering nearby?), CONWR (KM); 17 Mar. (male), Spfld (DB); 27 Mar., JP (PC). MC: 65, Cook Co, 16 Apr. (JSa); 50+, White Heath (Piatt Co) (RC). LD: 26 May, Chi (JL); 23 May (male), Spfld (DB); 19 May, Franklin Co (TF).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

EA: 31 Mar., Harrisburg (JD); 31 Mar., Pope Co (TF); 12 Apr. (3), Urbana (RC); 12 Apr., Evanston (JE). MC: 112, Union Co, 6 May (TF); 13, JP, 10 May (PC). LD: 5 June, Chi (EW).

Eastern Bluebird

EA: 17 Feb., Spfld (DB); 24 Feb. (pr.), Joliet Arsenal (JM); 25 Feb. (4—2 prs.), M.Arb (fide JF). MC: 52, Union Co, 6 May (TF); 8, Spfld, 6 Mar. (DB). LD: 29 May, JP (PC)

Vecry

EA: 16 Apr., Urbana (RC); 6 May, Chi (JL). MC: 14, JP, 7 May (PC, m.ob.); 10, Spfld, 15 May (DB); 10, Homer, 25 May (JS). LD: 10 June, JP (KC); 29 May, Urbana (RC).

Gray-cheeked Thrush

EA: 24 Apr., Spfld (DB); 5 May, JP (KB). MC: 15, Spfld, 15 May (DB); 9, CBG, 10 May (LB). LD: 30 May, JP (KC); 25 May, Spfld (DB).

Swainson's Thrush

EA: 18 Apr., Spfld (DB); 18 Apr., Union Co (KM, MSe); 26 Apr., JP (RH). MC: 100+, Urbana, 21 May (RC). LD: 5 June (2), JP (PC); 30 May (6), Urbana (EC).

Hermit Thrush

EA: 15 Mar., Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co) (RC); 1 Apr., M.Arb (fide JF). MC: 66, JP, 26 Apr. (PC); 25, Spfld, 10 Apr. (DB). LD: 15 May, Chi (EW); 14 May, Urbana (RC).

Wood Thrush

EA: 19 Apr., Johnson Co (TF); 23 Apr. (male), Spfld (DB); 26 Apr., JP (RH). MC: 26, Union Co, 6 May (TF); 9, Urbana, 10 May (RC). LD: 20 May, JP (PC).

American Robin

EA: 16 Feb., Spfld (DB). MC: 238, JP, 19 Apr. (PC); 199, Union Co, 6 May (TF); 110, Spfld, 6 May (DB).

Gray Catbird

EA: 2 & 6 Apr. (probably overwintering), Urbana (LL & RC, resp.); 18 Apr. (2), Boone Co (AB). MC: 38, JP, 10 May (PC); 34, Spfld, 8 May (DB).

Northern Mockingbird

EA: 13 Mar. (2), SE LaSalle Co (CMc, JMc); 15-16 Apr. (2), Wheaton (m.ob.). MC: 3, Braidwood (Will Co), 6 May (JM). LD: 29 May (2), JP (PC). Others: 22 May, Shirland (Winnebago Co) (BG); 11 records from Chi area between 15 Apr.-29 May (m.ob.).

Brown Thrasher

EA: 13 Mar. (3), Harrisburg (JD); 16 Mar., Spfld (DB); 5 Apr., West Chicago (MS). MC: 14, Spfld, 27 Apr. (DB); 12, JP, 6 May (PC) — low totals. LD: 15 May, Chi (EW).

American Pipit

EA: 1 Feb., Saline Co (JD); 12 Mar., Urbana (RC). MC: **100+**, Urbana, 1 Apr. (RC). {2nd wave} EA: 27 Apr., Fermi (PK). LD: 10 May (24), CBG (LB); 6 May (6), Charleston (BH et al.).

Cedar Waxwing

EA: 12 Feb., Spfld (DB); 5 Apr., McHenry Co (DF). MC: 232, JP, 28 May (PC); 140, Spfld, 23 May (DB); 50, CBG, 17 Mar. (LB); 40+, O'Fallon, 14 Mar. (KM). LD: 2 June (25), Evanston (EW).

Northern Shrike

LD: 18 Mar., Colored Sands F.P. (Winnebago Co) (fide RF, m.ob.); 11 Mar., Fermi (m.ob.). Others: 3 Mar., CNC (CF); 19 Feb., Victoria (Knox Co) (MBa).

Loggerhead Shrike

EA: 18 Mar., Spfld (DB). MC: 5, Union Co, 6 May (TF). Others: 1 Apr., Clin.L (MD); 27 Apr., Wilmette (JKo, LB); 30 Apr., Kendall Co (DS); 6 May, De Kalb Co (RF).

European Starling

MC: 178, Union Co, 6 May (TF); 173, JP, 6 May (PC et al.).

White-eyed Vireo

EA: **3 Apr.**, Urbana (GL). MC: 15, Union Co, 6 May (TF); 4, Spfld, 27 Apr. (DB).

Bell's Vireo

EA: 30 Apr., Jefferson Co (TF); 11 May (male), Sang.L (DB); 16 May, GLPSP (CA).

Solitary Vireo

EA: 19 Apr., Spfld (DB); 20 Apr., Pope Co (TF); 26 Apr. (3), Chi

area (m.ob.). MC: 6, Spfld, 8 May (DB). LD: 30 May, Spfld (DB); 21 May, JP (KC).

Yellow-throated Vireo

EA: 5 Apr., Clinton Co (MSe), 16 Apr., Urbana (Beth Chato, RC). MC: 12, Union Co, 6 May (TF); 6, Spfld, 6 May (DB). LD: 25 May, Ryder's Woods (McHenry Co) (RBa); 20 May, JP (RC).

Warbling Vireo

EA: 11 Apr., UCCA (KM); 22 Apr. (2 males), Sang.L & Spfld (DB); 29 Apr., Chi (CA). MC: 12, LCal, 6 May (WM); 8, Spfld, 6 & 21 May (DB); 8, Mahomet, 6 May (RC). LD: 5 June, Chi (EW).

Philadelphia Vireo

EA: 26 Apr., Saline Co (JD); 6 May, Evanston (EW, JE). MC: **8**, Spfld, 25 May (DB); **6**, West du Page F.P. (Du Page Co), 18 May (JP). LD: 30 May (2), Spfld (DB); 29 May, JP (PC).

Red-eyed Vireo

EA: **11 Apr.**, Pine Hills (Union Co) (KM); 20 Apr., Spfld (DB); 26 Apr., JP (HR). MC: 50+, Champaign Co., 28 May (RC); 35, Union Co, 6 May (TF); 18, McDowell Grove (Du Page Co), 20 May (JSu). LD: 5 June (2), JP (PC). Earliest IL spring record.

Blue-winged Warbler

EA: 14 Apr., Pomona (Jackson Co) (KM); 16 Apr., Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co) (RC). MC: 8, Palos, 9 May (CT); 6, Pomona (Jackson Co), 25 Apr. (KM). LD: 5 June (male), JP (PC). Others: 10 May (hybrid, Blue-winged X Golden-winged), Skokie Lagoons F.P. (Cook Co) (LB); 11 May ("Brewster's"), Spfld (DB).

Golden-winged Warbler

EA: **21 Apr.**, Saline Co (JD); 7 May (male), Spfld (DB); 10 May, JP (KC). MC: 11, Spfld, 15 May (DB); 6, Skokie Lagoons F.P. (Cook Co), 17 May (JSa). LD: 21 May, JP (PC); 21 May (2), Chi (JL); 18 May (female), Spfld (DB).

Tennessee Warbler

EA: **14 Apr.**, Jackson Co (KM); 27 Apr. (male), Sang.L (DB). MC: 200+, Urbana, 14 May (RC). LD: 11 June (male), JP (PC); 29 May (2 males), Spfld (DB). Earliest IL spring record.

Orange-crowned Warbler

EA: 12 Apr., White Heath (RC); 26 Apr., JP (RH, PC). MC: 4, Spfld, 1 May (DB); 4, Evanston, 27 Apr. (EW). LD: 25 May, JP (PC); 24 May, Homer (JS).

Nashville Warbler

EA: **13 Apr.**, Union Co (TF); 26 Apr. (male), Spfld (DB); 27 Apr., Evanston (EW). MC: 20, Skokie Lagoons F.P. (Cook Co), 10 May (JSa); 16, Spfld, 11 May (DB); 12, Clinton Co, 6 May (KM). LD: 29 May (2), JP (PC, KC); 25 May, Spfld (DB). Earliest IL spring record.

Northern Parula

EA: 3 Apr. (3), Pomona (Jackson Co) (KM); 16 Apr., Urbana (RC et al.). MC: 19, Pomona (Jackson Co), 17 Apr. (KM); 8, Spfld, 15 May (DB); 4, Lake Forest, 16 May (EW, PH). LD: 1 June (female), JP (PC); 29 May, Urbana (RC, m.ob.).

Yellow Warbler

EA: **10 Apr.**, Saline Co (JD); 22 Apr., IBSP (AS); 22 Apr. (male), Starved Rock S.P. (CMc, JMc). MC: 31, LCal, 6 May (WM); 12, Clinton Co, 6 May (KM); 9, Spfld, 6 May (DB). LD: 1 June (3), Evanston (EW). Earliest IL spring record.

Chestnut-sided Warbler

EA: **22 Apr.**, Saline Co (JD); 6 May (3), Spfld (DB); 6 May, Mahomet (RC); 7 May, JP (KB). MC: 18, Spfld, 15 May (DB). LD: 3 June Spoon L (MBa); 3 June, Urbana (EC); 2 June, JP (PC). Earliest IL spring record.

Magnolia Warbler

EA: 25 Apr., M. Arb (fide EW); 28 Apr., McHenry Co (DF). MC: 24, Spfld, 15 May (DB); 22, JP, 14 May (PC). LD: 10 June (male), JP (PC).

Cape May Warbler

EA: 3 May, Clinton Co (KM); 6 May, Chi (JL). MC: 22, Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co), 19 May (RC). LD: 28 May (female), Spfld (DB); 28 May, Chi (JL).

Black-throated Blue Warbler

Kentucky Warbler, one of a fallout of warblers at the Magic Hedge, Montrose Harbor, Cook Co. 10 May 1995. Photo by David B. Johnson.

EA: 7 May, Chi (CA, JL); 8 May, Spfld (DB). MC: 6 (males), JP, 11 May (PC); 5, Urbana, 9 May (GL). LD: 20 May, JP (PC); 20 May, Green Oaks (Knox Co) (MBa) — many others reported, good year, especially downstate.

Yellow-rumped Warbler

EA: 14 Mar., Spoon L (Knox Co) (MBa); 19 Mar., Urbana (RC); 21 Mar., Chi (JL). MC: 100+, Urbana, 16 Apr. (RC); 70, Cook Co, 16 Apr. (JSa). LD: 9 June (male), JP (PC); 22 May, Saline Co (JD); 21 May, Urbana (GL, RC); 21 May, Spfld (DB).

Black-throated Green Warbler

EA: 8 Apr., UCCA (KM); 10 Apr., Spfld (DB); 23 Apr., Skokie Lagoons F.P. (Cook Co) (LB). MC: 12, Du Page Co, 13 May (JSu); 9, Spfld, 11 May (DB); 8, Union Co, 4 May (KM et al.). LD: 5 June, Egger's Woods F.P. (Cook Co) (WM); 29 May (male), Spfld (DB).

Blackburnian Warbler

EA: 12 Apr., Geneva (fide JF); 28 Apr., Urbana (RC); 6 May, Joliet (CA). MC: 20, Urbana, 9 May (RC). LD: 29 May (3 females), Spfld (DB); 29 May (2 males), JP (PC); 29 May, Rock Cut S.P. (BG). Earliest IL spring record.

Yellow-throated Warbler

EA: 19 Mar., Clinton Co (MSe); 8 Apr. (male), Spfld (DB); 29 Apr., Naperville (JSu, m.ob.). MC: 10, Jackson Co, 4 May (KM et al.); 4, Spfld, 16 & 23 Apr. (DB). LD: 30 May, Ryder's Woods (McHenry Co) (RBa). Earliest IL spring record.

Pine Warbler

EA: 26 Feb. (wintering?), CONWR (KM); 14 Mar. (female), Oak River (Sangamon Co) (DB); 13 & 19 Apr., M. Arb (fide EW). MC: 9, JP, 6 May (PC) see seasonal highlights; 7, Jackson Co, 4 May (TF et al.). LD: 22 May (1 female, 2 fighting males), Rockton (Winnebago Co) (BG).

Prairie Warbler

EA: 10 Apr., Johnson Co (TF); 11 Apr., Saline Co (JD); 27 Apr. (female), Spfld (DB). MC: 4, Pope Co, 20 Apr. (TF). LD: 14 May, Urbana (RC).

Palm Warbler

EA: 1 Apr., Saline Co (KM); 16 Apr. (3), Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co) (RC); 16 Apr., Fermi (PK). MC: 63, JP, 6 May (PC et al.); 34, Union Co, 6 May (TF); 34, Spfld, 1 May (DB). LD: 29 May, IBSP (AS, JSa); 28 May, Chi (JL); 21 May, Urbana (GL, RC). Others: 2 May (xanthochromatic individual: yellow back, entirely yellow underparts with virtually no streaking), Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co) (RC). Earliest IL spring record.

Bay-breasted Warbler

EA: 6 May, Union Co (TF); 6 May, Saline Co (JD); 8 May (2 males), Spfld (DB); 8 May, Urbana (RC). MC: 15, Urbana, 14 May (RC). LD: 30 May, Urbana (RC).

Blackpoll Warbler

EA: 17 Apr., UCCA (KM); 1 May (male), Spfld (DB); 6 May, Chi (JL). MC: 30, Union Co, 6 May (TF); 23, Spfld, 18 May (DB). LD: 9 June (male), JP (PC); 30 May, Urbana (RC). Earliest IL spring record.

Cerulean Warbler

EA: 17 Apr., Pomona (Jackson Co) (KM); 22 Apr. (male), Spfld (RC); 4 May (male), JP (PC). MC: 4 (males), Wilkinson Marsh (De Kalb Co), 9 May (RF); 3, Ryerson C.A. (Lake Co), 16 May (EW).

Black-and-white Warbler

EA: 4 Apr., Pomona (Jackson Co) (MSe); 6 Apr. (male), Spfld (DB); 7 Apr. (2), Boone Co (AB). LD: 29 May, Urbana (RC et al.).

American Redstart

EA: 17 Apr., Union Co (KM); 1 May (2 males), Spfld (DB); 6 May, Chi (JL). MC: 31, JP, 26 May (PC, TJ); 23, Spfld, 15 May (DB). LD: 5 June, Chi (EW); 30 May, Urbana (RC).

Prothonotary Warbler

EA: 8 Apr., Mermet L (Massac Co) (KM); 12 Apr., Geneva (fide JF); 16 Apr., Urbana (RC et al.). MC: 30, Union Co, 17 Apr (KM). Other: 4 records in Du Page Co between 10-14 May (m.ob.).

Worm-eating Warbler

EA 17 Apr., Johnson Co (TF); 17 Apr. (8), Union Co (KM); 2 May, sw. Du Page Co (fide JF). MC: 19, Union Co, 6 May (TF). LD: 19 May, Downers Grove (fide JF); 17 May, McKinley Woods (Will Co) (AS, EW, m.ob.); 14 May, Urbana (RC). Others: 7 May, Burnside Forest Preserve (Kane Co) (fide RC); 7 May, CBG (JKo); 9 May, Aurora (fide JF); 14 May, near MM (MS).

Swainson's Warbler

LD: 28 May, Urbana (*RC), see seasonal highlights.

Ovenbird

EA: 17 Apr., Union Co (KM); 17 Apr. (male), Spfld (DB); 26 Apr., JP (RH, PC). MC: 22, Spfld, 9 May (DB); 13, CBG, 10 May (LB). LD: 7 June, JP (PC).

Northern Waterthrush

EA: 17 Apr., UCCA (KM); 22 Apr., M. Arb (fide EW); 24 Apr., Skokie Lagoons F.P. (Cook Co) (AS). MC: 31, Urbana, 10 May (RC); 19, JP, 7 May (PC). LD: 28 May, Chi (JL); 24 May, Spfld (DB).

Louisiana Waterthrush

EA: 20 Mar., Giant City S.P. (KM); 6 Apr., Spfld (DB); 8 Apr.,

Palos (fide JF); 10 Apr., Fermi (PK). MC: 10, Union Co, 6 May (TF). LD: 11 May, JP (TM); 10 May (2), Urbana (RC).

Kentucky Warbler

EA: 17 Apr. (3), Union Co (KM); 26 Apr. (male), Spfld (DB). MC: 31, Union Co, 6 May (TF); 4, Urbana, 10 May (RC). LD: 5 June, JP (PC); 23 May, Downers Grove (fide JF). Other: 13 May, Brookfield Zoo (fide JF).

Connecticut Warbler

EA: 9 May (male), Spfld (DB); 17 May, JP (PC). MC: 5, Decatur, 21 May (MD); 4, JP, 21 May (PC). LD: 1 June, JP (PC).

Mourning Warbler

EA: 8 May (male), Spfld (DB); 10 May (male), JP (PC). MC: 8, JP, 26 May (PC); 8, Decatur, 21 May (MD). LD: 11 June (male), JP (PC); 1 June (female), Urbana (RC).

Common Yellowthroat

EA: 15 Apr., Clin.L (RC); 27 Apr. (2 males), JP (PC). MC: 58, Union Co, 6 May (TF); 54, JP, 10 May (PC). LD: 5 June (female), Chi (EW).

Hooded Warbler

EA: 14 Apr. (female), Spfld (DB). MC: 7, Union Co, 6 May (TF). LD: 31 May (male), Spfld (DB); 27 May, Downers Grove (fide JF).

Wilson's Warbler

EA: 7 May, Evanston (JE). MC: 16, JP, 21 May (PC); 10, Spfld, 18 May (DB). LD: 4 June, Charleston (BH); into June, Spfld (DB).

Canada Warbler

EA: 9 May, Spfld (DB); 9 May, Urbana (RC); 10 May (male), JP (PC). MC: 20, JP, 26 May (PC, TJ); 4, Spfld, 19 & 20 May (DB). LD: 11 June (male), JP (PC); into June, Spfld (DB).

Yellow-breasted Chat

EA: 21 Apr., Harrisburg (JD); 21 Apr., Orient (Franklin Co) (JS); 5 May, Spfld (DB); 9 May, JP (fide DM). MC: 7, Union Co, 6 May (TF); 4, Spfld, 9 May (DB). LD: 29 May (2), Rock Cut S.P. (Winnebago Co) (BG).

Summer Tanager

EA: 17 Apr., Pine Hills (Union Co) (KM); 26 Apr. (male), Spfld (DB). MC: 17, Union Co, 6 May (TF). LD: 29 May (male), Urbana (RC). Others (north): 6 May, Kane Co (fide JF); 9-11 May, Skokie Lagoons F.P. (Cook Co) (PH,EW, m.ob.); 15 May, Maple Grove F.P. (Du Page Co) (fide JF).

Scarlet Tanager

EA: 12 Apr., Union Co (TF); 16 Apr., Urbana (RC); 27 Apr., Evanston (EW). MC: 25, Urbana, 9 May (GL); 18, Union Co, 6 May (TF). LD: 29 May, Urbana (RC).

Northern Cardinal

MC: 52, Spfld, 6 May (DB); 52, Union Co, 6 May (TF); 24, JP, 6 May (PC et al.).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

EA: 17 Apr., Union Co (KM); 21 Apr. (male), Spfld (DB); 27 Apr., Boone Co (AB). MC: 24, Chi, 7 May (EW); 20, Urbana, 9 May (RC); 20, Spfld, 9 May (DB). Earliest IL spring record.

Blue Grosbeak

EA: 21 Apr., Pope Co (TF); 22 Apr., Harrisburg (JD); 5 May (male), Williamsfield (Knox Co) (MBa). MC: 9, Union Co, 6 May (TF). Others: 20 May (male), Spfld (DB).

Indigo Bunting

EA: 11 Apr. (2), Pomona (Jackson Co) (KM); 27 Apr. (4), Urbana (RC); 1 May, McHenry Co (DF). MC: 47, Union Co, 6 May (TF); 30, Spfld, 9 May (DB).

Dickcissel

EA: 6 Apr. (male), Spfld (DB). MC: 25, Monroe Co, 22 May (KM); 14, Spfld, 14 May (DB).

Rufous-sided Towhee

EA: 22 Feb., Urbana (EC); 15 Mar. (2 males), JP (PC). MC: 18, Chi, 16 Apr. (JSa); 17, Union Co, 6 May (TF); 11, Spfld, 6 May (DB). LD: 26 May (female) (PC). Others: 14 Mar. ("Spotted"), Sang.L (DB).

American Tree Sparrow

MC: 60, Spfld, 5 Mar. (DB). LD: 11 May, JP (KC); 14 Apr., Urbana (RC).

Chipping Sparrow

EA: 13 Mar., Douglas-Hart Nature Center (Coles County) (BH, m.ob.); 20 Mar., Giant City S.P. (KM); 21 Mar., M.Arb (DRi); 6 Apr., Addison (fide JF). MC: 39, Spfld, 26 Apr. (DB).

Clay-colored Sparrow

EA: 29 Apr., Urbana (RC); 7 May, JP & Chi (CA). MC: 5, CBG (1) & Skokie Lagoons F.P. (Cook Co) (4), 10 May (LB). LD: 27 May (singing), KCP (RC); 21 May, Dragon L.F.P. (Du Page Co) (JSu); 18 May, Monroe Co (KM). Others: 9-10 May, Urbana (GL, RC); 9 May (probable Clay-colored x Chipping Sparrow), Spfld (*DB); 11 May, Dragon L.F.P. (Du Page Co) (JSu).

Field Sparrow

EA: 12 Mar. (7), M.Arb (DRi); 14 Mar. (4), Boone Co (AB); 14 Mar., Sang.L (DB). MC: 22, Union Co, 6 May (TF). 16, Spfld, 25 Apr. (DB).

Vesper Sparrow

EA: 13 Mar., West Chicago (MS); 19 Mar., Urbana (RC); 8 Apr., LCal (WM). MC: 5, Spfld, 7 Apr. (DB).

Lark Sparrow

EA: 8 Apr., Spfld (DB); 18 Apr., Union Co (KM, MSe, DK). MC: 3, Green River C.A. (Lee Co), 13 May (CMc, JMc); 3, Braidwood (Will Co), 6 May (JM). LD: 14 May, Saline Co (TF); 13 May, Chi (GW, JL).

Savannah Sparrow

EA: 12 Mar., Buckhart (Sangamon Co) (DB); 13 Mar., JP (KC). MC: 52, JP, 27 Apr (PC); 40, Pulaski Co, 13 Apr. (TF); 40, Franklin Co, 31 Mar. (LS); 20, Clin.L, 25 Mar. (RC). LD: 31 May, JP (PC); 12 May, Spfld (DB).

Grasshopper Sparrow

EA: 9 Apr. Jefferson Co (TF); 23 Apr., Du Page Co (JSu) (LB). MC: 23, Dragon L.F.P. (Du Page Co), 7 May (JSu); 9, Clinton Co, 6 May (KM). LD: 28 May, Chi (JL).

Henslow's Sparrow

EA: 11 Apr., Harrisburg (JD); 16 Apr., JP (PC, RH); 16 Apr., Chi (JSa); 22 Apr., Clin.L (RC). Others: 4 May, Saline Co (TF et al.); 7 May, JP (PC).

Le Conte's Sparrow

EA: 14 Mar., Sang.L (DB). MC: 15, Johnson Co, 18 Mar. (TF). LD: 21 May, JP (DP); 14 May, Chi (m.ob.).

Sharp-tailed Sparrow

LD: 29 May, Chi (JL).

Fox Sparrow

EA: 20 Feb., Harrisburg (JD); 26 Feb., Spfld (DB); 11 Mar., Dragon L.F.P. (Du Page Co) (JSu). MC: 27, M.Arb, 1 Apr. (fide EW); 25+, Urbana, 6 Apr. (RC). LD: 16 May, Lake Forest (EW,PH); 13 Apr. (7), Spfld (DB).

Song Sparrow

EA: 25 Feb. (++), Du Page Co (fide JF). MC: 72, Dragon L.F.P.

(Du Page Co), 25 Mar. (JSu); 38, Monroe Co, 20 May (KM); 28, Spfld, 24 Mar. (DB).

Lincoln's Sparrow

EA: 31 Mar. (wintering nearby?), Murphysboro (RD); 26 Apr., Spfld (DB); 26 Apr., JP (RH). MC: 8, JP, 10 May (KC); 6, Spfld, 9 May (DB). LD: 29 May, JP (PC); 23 May, Spfld (DB); 19 May (2), Monroe Co (KM).

Swamp Sparrow

EA: 12 Mar., M.Arb (DRi). MC: 200+, Clin.L, 12 Apr. (RC); 83, Dragon L F.P., 28 Apr. (JSu). LD: 23 May, JP (TJ); 20 May, Spfld (DB).

White-throated Sparrow

EA: 16 Apr. (2), Fermi (PK). MC: 736, JP, 26 Apr. (PC); 200+, Urbana, 30 Apr. (RC). LD: 28 May, Chi (AS); 27 May, Urbana (RC).



LeConte's Sparrow, Jackson Park, Cook Co., 23 April 1995. Photo by Thomas Jackman.

White-crowned Sparrow

EA: 31 Mar., Railsplitter S.P. (RF); 2 Apr. (2), Boone Co (AB). MC: 74, JP, 7 May (PC); 30, Carman (Henderson Co), 10 May (MBa); 18, Union Co, 17 Apr. (KM). LD: 27 May, Cook Co (TF); 20 May, Spfld (DB).

Harris' Sparrow

EA: 5 May (ad.), Decatur (MD). LD: 16-17 May, Poplar Grove (Boone Co) (AB). Others: 4 Mar. (overwintered), HLCA (KM); 7 May, JP (*PC); 8 May, Aledo (Mercer Co) (*BB); 10 May (ad.), Carman (Henderson Co) (MBa).

Dark-eyed Junco

MC: 100, Spfld, 9 Apr. (DB); 49, JP, 26 Mar (PC). LD: 13 May, Brookfield Zoo (fide JF); 6 May, JP (KB, PC); 6 May, Chi (JL); 2 May, Spfld (DB).

Lapland Longspur

MC: 200, De Kalb Co, 6 May (fide RF); 100+, Jordan Creek Wildlife Preserve (Vermilion Co), 13 Apr. (JS).

Smith's Longspur

EA: 11 Mar., Rantoul (RC). MC: 60, De Witt Co, 15 Apr. (MD). LD: 6 May (5), Wataga (Knox Co) (MBa); 6 May (6), Spfld (DB).

Snow Bunting

MC: 26, LCNP, 13 Mar. (CMc, JMc). LD: 2 Apr. (3), LCNP (CMc, JMc).

Bobolink

EA: 26 Apr., Spfld (DB); 29 Apr., DeKalb Co (RF). MC: 20, Union Co, 9 May (TF et al.). LD: 9 June (female), JP (PC).

Red-winged Blackbird

EA: 17 Feb, Spfld (DB); 17 Feb., Downers Grove (fide JF). MC: 10,000, Spfld, 17 Mar., 10 Apr., & 12 Apr. (DB). Others (possible Red-winged x Yellow-headed Blackbird): 1 Apr., Spfld (*DB).

Eastern Meadowlark

EA: 17 Feb., Spfld (DB); 18 Feb., Dragon L F.P (fide JF). MC: 56, Dragon L F.P. (Du Page Co), 23 Apr. (JSu); 49, Union Co, 6 May (TF); 31, Spfld, 6 May (DB). LD: 28 May, JP (KC).

Western Meadowlark

EA: 26 Feb., Spfld (DB). MC: 3, Greene Co, 9 Mar. (KM).

Yellow-headed Blackbird

EA: 17 Mar., Clin.L (De Witt Co) (*RC) - (overwintering?); 15 Apr. (4 males), LCal (WM). MC: 11 (8 males, 3 females), LCal, 6 May (WM). LD: 12-14 May, Will Scarlet Mine (Williamson Co) (DC, m.ob.). Others: 12 Apr., Spfld (DB); 20 Apr. (3), East Moline (PP). Earliest IL spring record.

Rusty Blackbird

EA: 8 Feb., Spfld (DB); 25 Feb., Kane Co (fide JF). MC: 300, Spfld, 6 Mar. (DB); 100, UCCA, 26 Feb. (KM); 80, Lockport, 13 Apr. (CA). LD: 11 May, Evanston (JE); 6 May (6), Franklin Co (LS).

Brewer's Blackbird

EA: 11 Mar. (5), Dragon L F.P. (Du Page Co) (JSu); 13 Mar. (male, female), Buckhart (Sangamon Co) (DB). MC: 45+, Jackson Co, 1 Apr. (RD).

Common Grackle

EA: 18 Feb., Urbana (RC); 19 Feb., Du Page Co (JSu). MC: 20,000, Spfld, 6 Mar. (DB).

Brown-headed Cowbird

EA: 4 Mar., Du Page Co (JSu). MC: 5000, Spfld, 6 Mar. (DB); 265, JP, 19 Apr. (PC).

Orchard Oriole

EA: 16 Apr., Urbana (RC et al.); 28 Apr., M.Arb (fide JF). MC: 21, Union Co, 6 May (TF). LD (north): 19 May, Chi (EW).

Northern Oriole

EA: 17 Apr. (2), Union Co (KM); 26 Apr. (male), Spfld (DB); 30 Apr., Downers Grove (fide JF). MC: 22, Lake Forest, 16 May (EW,PH); 13, Spfld, 9 May (DB).

Purple Finch

EA: 15 Apr., M.Arb (fide JF). LD: 6 May (female), JP (KB, PC); 6 May, Evanston (EW,JE); 6 May, Dragon L F.P. (Du Page Co) (JSu); 21 Apr., Sang.L (DB).

House Finch

EA: 25 Feb., JP (PC). MC: 75, Homer, in May (JS); 28, Union Co, 6 May (TF); 17, JP, 6 May (PC et al).

Red Crossbill

25-26 Apr. (3) & 29 Apr. (all females), M.Arb (AH. & CA).

Pine Siskin

MC: 5, Clin.L, 11 Mar. (MD). LD: 28 May, Chi (JL, m.ob.); 8 May, Table Grove (Fulton Co) (TM).

American Goldfinch

MC: 66, JP, 26 Feb. (PC); 46, Spfld, 2 May (DB).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow

MC: 25, New Boston (Mercer Co) (PP). Others: "Small population establishing in south Knox County" (fide MBa).

EXOTICS & INTRODUCED

Trumpeter Swan

4-12 Mar. (2), Clin.L (MD, RC).

Swan Goose

12-13 Mar., Buckhart (DB).

Mandarin Duck

Chi (Lincoln Park) — all winter & spring (m.ob.).

Eurasian Wigeon (red phase female)

Chi (Lincoln Park) — all winter & spring (m.ob.) - released bird from the fall.

Egyptian Goose

21-25 Mar., LCal (JL).

Monk Parakeet

JP area birds moving into Hyde Park (PC, JL).

Ringed Turtle-Dove

23 Apr., Downers Grove (fide JF); 29 Apr., Chi (JL).

Addendum

Glaucous Gull

MC: 10 (2 ad., 2 subad. & 6 imm.), LCal, 8 Mar. 1986 (JL); 9, (2 ad. & 7 imm.), LCal, 2 Mar. 1986 (RB, m.ob.).

Great Black-backed Gull

MC: 16 (13 first year, a 2nd yr., a 3rd yr. & an ad.), LCal, 2 Mar. 1986 (RB, m.ob.).

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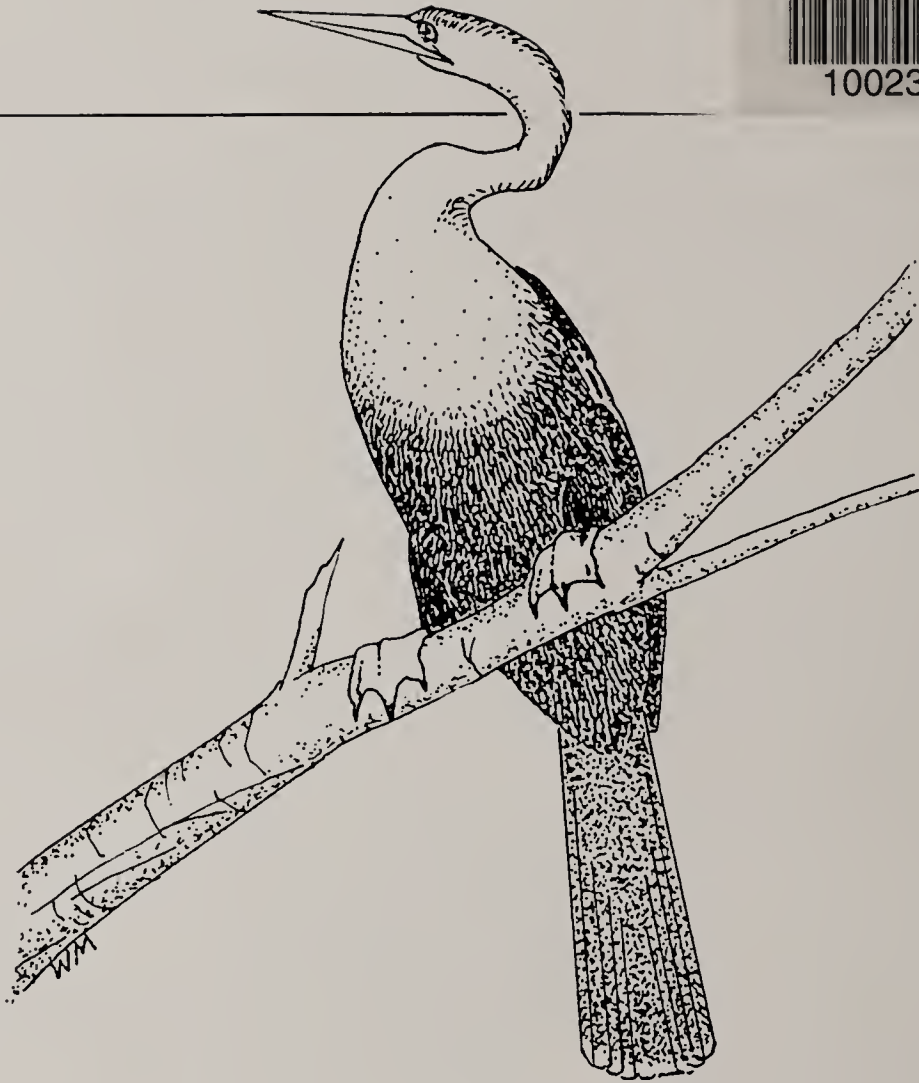
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